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MARCH 15, 2005

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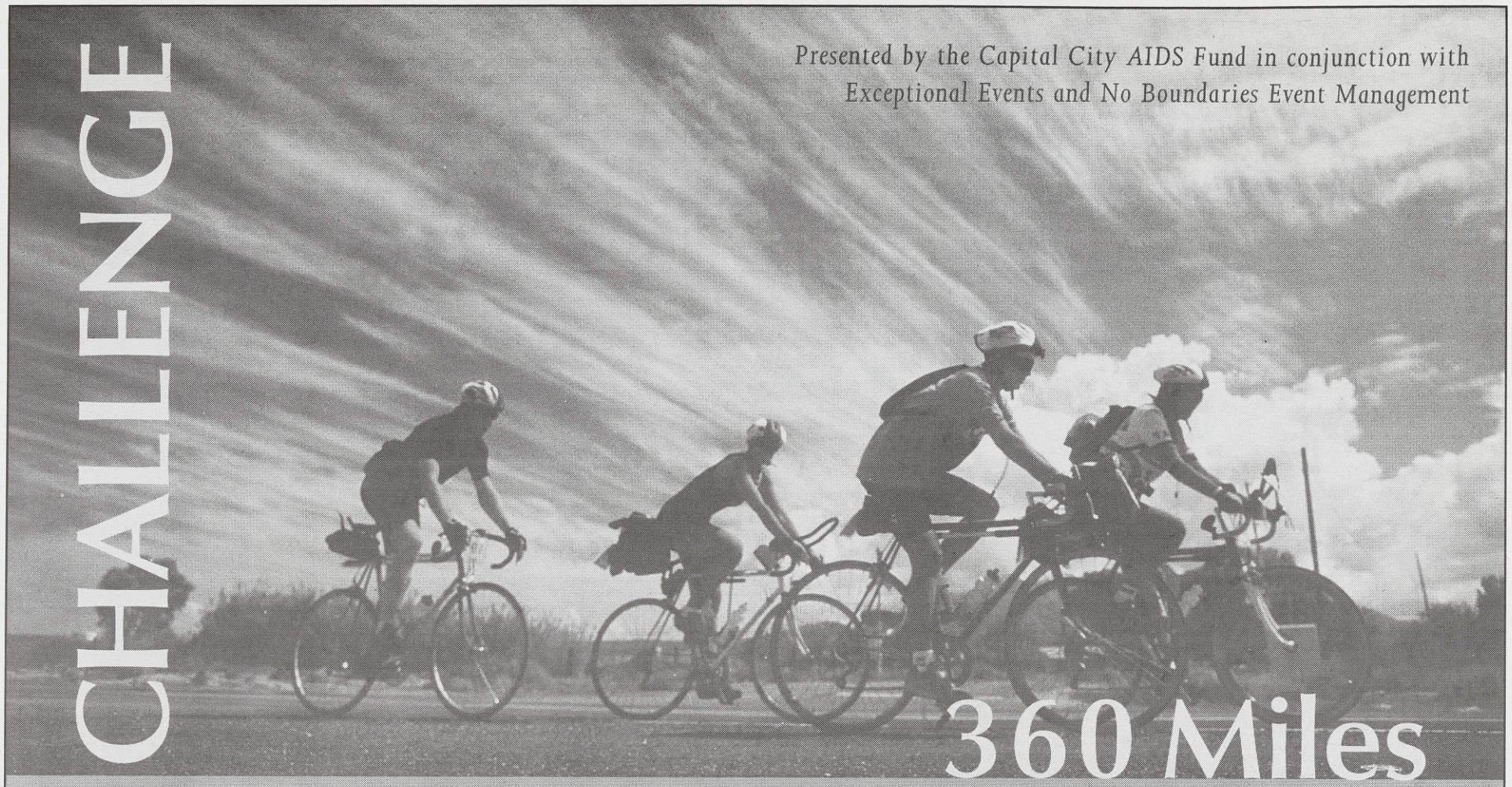

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PUBLISHER
JEFFRY A. DAVIS
PUBLISHER'S ASSISTANTS
LARRY MCFALL • TRISTAN ROBERTS
EDITOR\DESIGNER
MATTHEW BURLINGAME
WEBMASTER
MAREK STRZODKA
ARTISTS
AJ QUADROS • JERRY KING • BRYAN BROWN
WRITERS
STEFAN GRUENWEDEL • TOM SWANNER
BRIAN JUDD • KATRINA TORRES • DAVID WARPNESS
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PHOTOGRAPHERS
MIKE COOK • JEFFRY DAVIS • DEBORAH GOLDSTEIN
CHRIS HORRELL • PETER JAMES • LARRY MCFALL
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A New Day for Sacramento

by jeffry davis/m gw publisher

Inching ever closer to celebrating 30 years of service to our community, it is both an honor and a privilege for me as the publisher of Mom Guess What, to begin an introduction. This introduction will offer just a preview into the transformation currently underway throughout MGW. To begin, I would like to ask you all to join me in welcoming the new additions to our team and family, the entire Q-Ragg staff.

A short time ago MGW and Q-Ragg publishers met to discuss the issue and concerns over the financial ramifications of having three publications within the Sacramento GLBT community. After several meetings it was determined that it would be more beneficial to the community to merge the staff and resources of both publications restoring the number of publications back to only two, MGW and Outword. This combination will allow MGW to move forward in a new direction and continue to provide its readers with a powerful voice. While obviously saddened by the loss of Q-Ragg as a community resource, both teams of extremely talented professionals are looking forward to the strength this merger will provide for our community and the expansion of coverage already underway. We also look forward to working with our friends at Outword as both publications ensure that our community is represented by a strong media.

Directly following this piece you will hear from Larry McFall, the Publisher of Q-Ragg who will provide you with his thoughts on the merger. We understand there may be questions and comments over this merger, and we will do our best to respond all of them. I encourage you to visit our website at www.mgwnews.com and utilize our inquiry form if you have any questions or comments. ▼

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A New Day for Sacramento

by larry m cfall/m gw staff

Q-Ragg has printed its last issue. Many have heard it through the community grapevine, or seen the empty newspaper racks; we've received many inquiries, and many kind words over the past several weeks. And now you've heard it from the horse's mouth. As sad as I thought I would be when I made my decision, in the past several weeks, I have found myself not mourning a loss, but excited about a new joint venture—the merging of Q-Ragg and the 28-year-old institution of Mom Guess What? Newspaper. And I'm pleased Sacramento will get the strength and energy of two talented and dedicated publishing teams who want nothing more than to reflect Sacramento's strong local community.

In this issue you will see the first of many changes. You'll see the strongest bits and pieces of what you loved in Q-Ragg, and what you've come to count on in MGW. When I spoke to my staff about the merger, they were sad about the loss of what we had worked so hard for over the past year, but each one of them welcomed and embraced the merger as eagerly and warmly as one would embrace the family of a new spouse, and over the past two weeks, we have felt that same welcoming atmosphere from our new family at MGW.

But all of us are part of a larger family; the GLBT family in Sacramento. And like most families, we sometimes have our squabbles and our tantrums, and we temporarily lose sight of the bigger picture. And that picture is the ideal goal of unity and cooperation among all the entities within our community. And that community is growing bigger and stronger by the day. We are blessed to have a number of media resources to cover all aspects of our community. We have Being Gay Today on television. We have a thriving community online. And we have two very dedicated newspapers; Outword and MGW. There should never be a time when someone can't pick up these papers, turn on the TV, or sign on the internet, and not see themselves represented.

Some people have said for years that Sacramento is not big enough to support three newspapers. Maybe, maybe not. Maybe if Q-Ragg had continued a few more months it would have lasted 28 years. I'll never know. But what I do know is that our community is very lucky to have two fantastic GLBT publications to give it the best news and entertainment coverage possible. And I am very proud of that fact. ▼

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Completing the Circle

by matthew burlingame/mgw editor

I'm sitting here at my desk with only 55 minutes before this issue will be sent off to the printers. ah, the joy of deadlines. for some deadlines may be daunting, evil demons, striking fear in the heart of man...but for most newspaper folk deadlines are just an adrenaline rush. for me, it's a bit of both especially when there's people talking in the background and you start typing what they are saying...but I digress.

Still, as I sit in this office and remind myself to type "MGW" instead of "Q-Ragg", I can't help feeling that things have, in a way, come full circle.

Picture it: Sacramento, 1996. A fresh-faced, boy (that would be me) makes his first attempt at making real contact with the GLBT community (that would be you). His mother's friend, who is as gay as they come, takes him to the Open Book where he finds a copy of *Mom Guess What? Newspaper*. A few weeks later, he is a calendar editor with his sights on someday writing his own column. It takes several months, but finally he has his chance. He calls his column "*Not My Aisle*". No one understands what the hell the title means, and frankly neither does he, but I'm digressing.

After a year, he—OK you know it's me, so I'll just start using first person—"I" venture out into the gay world. There I write for several other papers, attend college to get a degree in journalism and theatre, and start several new papers.

The first paper I helped start was *This Side Up*. It managed three issues before finding its way into the Newspaper Graveyard.

Then, almost exactly a year ago, I was approached to work on a new GLBT newspaper with a fresh vision. One that would be focused solely on Sacramento and its GLBT community. It was bold, it was progressive, it was...logical. So I agreed and *Q-Ragg* was born.

Working with Larry was a snap, mainly 'cause except for a few key points, I had free rein to create the paper artistically. I got to work with some great writers, artists, photographers, and I got to know member of my community that I hadn't previously had the chance to meet. I was doing what I'd always wanted to do, edit, design, write, and do it all for our community.

It was a wild ride which came to an abrupt halt as Larry finally announced to me in February that we had printed our last issue. I was disappointed. Actually, that's an understatement, I was crushed.

It was then he began talking about the possibility of Q-Ragg merging with MGW. I was a little surprised. I had met jeffry shortly after he took over, and thought he was a nice guy, but merging...hmmmmm...

As it became apparent that the merger was happening and I would be taking over as the editor and main designer, I began to recall the few editors I had worked with when I was at MGW in the past. There were a few of them to say the least. But there were three that stuck out.

The first, Anita "Amazon" Lee, who was the first radical dyke I had ever met. She taught me that feminism was a state of mind.

Then there was Stephen Kulieke—whose name I am sure I spelled wrong—sorry Stephen. I have to admit I had a bit of a crush on him, after all he had that whole unassuming-daddy thing going on. *dreamy sigh* He taught me about journalistic integrity.

And finally there was Jim Long, the guy I started This Side Up with. Let's just say I learned from him everything NOT to do. which is a valuable lesson.

And now, I take on the role of MGW editor. And somehow, I think it fits. Strangely, I don't think I've ever felt at home in a job—and I still get to edit, write, design and best of all, I get to work with you, my community. Thanks!

▼ ▼ ▼

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Dear Editor...

On behalf of the District Attorney's Office I am sending out a special notice about the Upcoming District Attorney's Citizen Academy.

If you are interested in becoming a participant in the Citizen's Academy please contact Karen Maxwell at the DAs office. (916) 874-4575. Speaking as a recent graduate of the Academy it is a fun and informative program to be a part of. Lambda Board President Bill Snyder and Lambda Executive Director Bob Brodie are past graduates as well. Karen is an excellent instructor and she actively pursues members of the LGBTI community to participate. Lets support this program that supports us!

Jason R. Kirkland
Volunteer Coordinator
Lambda Community Center
www.lambdasac.org

Citizens Academy is a 10-week course designed to engage minority communities in communication, participation, and mutual learning on the criminal justice system, diversity, and race issues within the framework of the criminal justice system. Several unique components to Citizens Academy are as follows: 1. Selection of a broad range of topics for discussion: 2. Input from the diverse communities:3. Selection of a diverse group of speakers: 4. Selection of a diverse group of participants. The 10-week Spring 2005 Academy will meet Wednesday evenings, beginning April 6, 2005, for a two and a half hour class at McGeorge School of Law. Citizens Academy is sponsored by the District Attorney's office at no cost to participants.

For more information, please contact,
Supervising Deputy District Attorney Karen Maxwell
Citizens Academy Coordinator
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COURT HEARS ARGUMENT FROM LAMBDA LEGAL

The Washington Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a lawsuit brought by Lambda Legal and the Northwest Women's Law Center seeking marriage for same-sex couples statewide. Immediately after the oral arguments, Lambda Legal issued a statement from Jennifer C. Pizer, Senior Counsel in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office and one of the attorneys handling the case.

"Many of the justices clearly understand that same-sex couples are being discriminated against because they cannot marry, and that this discrimination deserves their attention. This is clearly a moderate court that's looking very closely at the issues in front of it. Based on today's arguments, we have every reason to believe that the justices' minds are open and that they're taking this case very seriously. Said Pizer.

Pizer continued by saying. "These justices clearly understand the human dimensions of why same-sex couples need the protections only marriage provides. From their questions, we can tell that a good number of the justices understand who gay people are, and they seem to know gay people personally. They understand that real people are harmed by the state law prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying. They see that this isn't an abstract question—that we're talking about real families.

JURY AWARDS THOUSANDS TO FORMER LESBIAN UPS WORKER

An openly lesbian former United Parcel Service (UPS) worker was awarded $63,000 this week in her hostile work environment sexual harassment suit against the world's largest package delivery company. The jury concluded that the 14-year UPS veteran experienced severe, widespread and persistent harassment that created a hostile and abusive work environment, which ultimately led to her wrongful termination.

"The outcome of this case sends a clear message to UPS and the rest of corporate America that harassment based on gender stereotypes will not be tolerated," said attorney Waukeen Q. McCoy of the Law Offices of Waukeen Q. McCoy, who represents the plaintiff in this case. "Discrimination in the workplace must stop, and stop now. We will continue to fight this case against UPS at the appellate level."

The case, which was argued in San Francisco Superior Court, focused on Kathy Hoskins' complaint of persistent harassment by coworkers and supervisors about her appearance. She also was denied new work equipment and other uniform and safety equipment that was readily available to male employees. Hoskins is an African-American woman whose gender presentation does not fit the stereotypical feminine model.

"According to my former supervisor, I wasn't 'feminine' enough," said Hoskins, who worked at a UPS facility in San Bruno from September 1988 to February 2003 as a package car driver.

CLERKS CHALLENGE MASS. GOVERNOR'S DISCRIMINATORY BAN ON MARRIAGE

Thirteen Massachusetts city and town clerks are taking the historic step of asking the Supreme Judicial Court to allow them to challenge orders by Governor Romney and Attorney General Tom Reilly that the clerks say would require them to illegally discriminate against same sex couples who come to Massachusetts to marry. The clerks are filing a brief with the SJC today, appealing a lower court ruling which held that the local officials have no right to challenge orders of state officials on constitutional grounds.

"We have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of Massachusetts, said Catherine Flanagan Stover, clerk of the Town and County of Nantucket. "The SJC has already said that, within the Commonwealth, discriminating against gay and lesbian couples seeking to marry violates the Constitution. We believe the Governor's orders put us in the position of violating our oath of office. We are asking the SJC to clarify the law so that clerks are not put in that position."

The clerks challenging the Governor's directives are from Provincetown, Somerville, Worcester, Acton, Burlington, Cambridge, Marblehead, Nantucket, Northampton, Plymouth, Sherborn, Westford and Rowe, representing a broad cross-section of Massachusetts cities and towns. The legal appeal by the clerks demonstrates that the lesbian and gay couples who filed a separate challenge to Romney's actions have support from the very officials most knowledgeable about the enforcement of the state's marriage laws over a period of decades - officials who can attest that the Governor's new policy is discriminatory. The clerks' case also raises important and independent questions about the right of local officials to oppose orders from state officials that require them to carry out their duties in an unconstitutional manner.

19-YEAR-OLD FOUND HACKED TO DEATH IN BROOKLYN

The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), the nation's Black gay civil rights organization, mourns the death of Rashawn Brazell, a 19-year-old Brooklyn resident whose body was grotesquely hacked apart and found in several pieces across Brooklyn last month. Investigators have not classified the Brazell murder as a hate crime and are still searching for a suspect. February 17, a transit authority maintenance worker found two legs and an arm stuffed in a bloody plastic bag jammed against the tunnel wall of a subway track in Brooklyn.

An aspiring Web designer who lived on Gates Avenue in Bedford Stuyvesant with his parents, the young man left on the morning of Valentine's Day, ostensibly for a meeting with a tax preparer and never returned. Investigators have not classified the Brazell murder as a hate crime and are still searching for a suspect.

30-YEAR-OLD MURDERER OF SAKIA GUNN ACCEPTS PLEA BARGAIN

Last week, the killer of 15-year-old Newark teen Sakia Gunn, was allowed to plead down from a murder charge to aggravated manslaughter, aggravated assault and bias intimidation. Richard McCullough was charged with the 2003 stabbing death of Gunn as she and a 17-year-old friend waited for a bus after spending the evening hanging out in Greenwich Village. McCullough had made unwelcome passes. The girls responded that they were lesbians and not interested, which prompted the men to begin hurling homophobic insults. The argument escalated and McCullough grabbed one of the girls around the neck, he said. McCullough stabbed Gunn once in the chest when she came to the girl's defense.

"The perpetrators of violent anti-gay hate crimes seek to divide us from the American family," said NBJC Strategic Director H. Alexander Robinson. "These terrorists want to send a message to society that devalues our lives. We must reject their message of hate and send a clear message of our own. Congress and our nation's legislators must ensure that all state and federal hate crimes laws protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans." ▼

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Judge says Calif. can't ban gay marriage

Judge Richard Kramer ruled Monday that California's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional, if upheld on appeal, the decision would open the way for what some consider the most friendly state to GLBT individuals, to follow Massachusetts footsteps by allowing same-sex couples to wed.

Judge Kramer of San Francisco County's trial-level Superior Court compared the ban to laws requiring racial segregation in schools, and said there appears to be "no rational purpose" for denying marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples.

"Today's historic court decision is not a surprise at all. Another Court in the United States, in this case our Court of the Great State of California has ruled that all gays and lesbians must be treated equal under the law. Equal Marriage rights is the fair and right answer." - Bill Snyder, Lambda Community Fund Board President

Lawsuits filed by the city of San Francisco and a number of gay couples after the California Supreme Court halted marriages begun by the city's mayor, Gavin Newsom.

San Francisco's has always been considered a battleground for gay rights. from the early days of the castro riots to the murder of Harvey Milk, to later becoming the forefront of the AIDS/HIV movement.

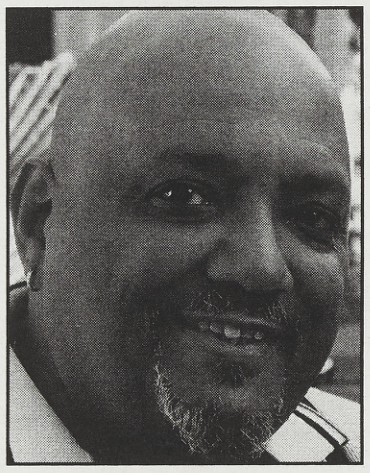
Gay marriage supporters across the country are calling the ruling a historic development akin to the 1948 state Supreme Court decision that made California the first state to legalize interracial marriage.

"Today's ruling is an important step toward a more fair and just California that rejects discrimination and affirms family values for all California families," stated San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

but the battle won't stop here. right-wing fundamentalists are already planning appeals.

"For a single judge to rule there is no conceivable purpose for preserving marriage as one man and one woman is mind-boggling," said Liberty Counsel President Mathew Staver. "This decision will be gasoline on the fire of the pro-marriage movement in California as well as the rest of the country."

"The decision today is a landmark court ruling that finally gives all of us Lesbian & Gay individuals equal rights in the state of California. We applaud Superior Court Judge Kramer for allowing us to finally be able to begin enjoying these rights. The fight is far from over but this another step in the right direction to Equal Rights." - JG Gonsalves Lambda Community Fund Board Vice-President

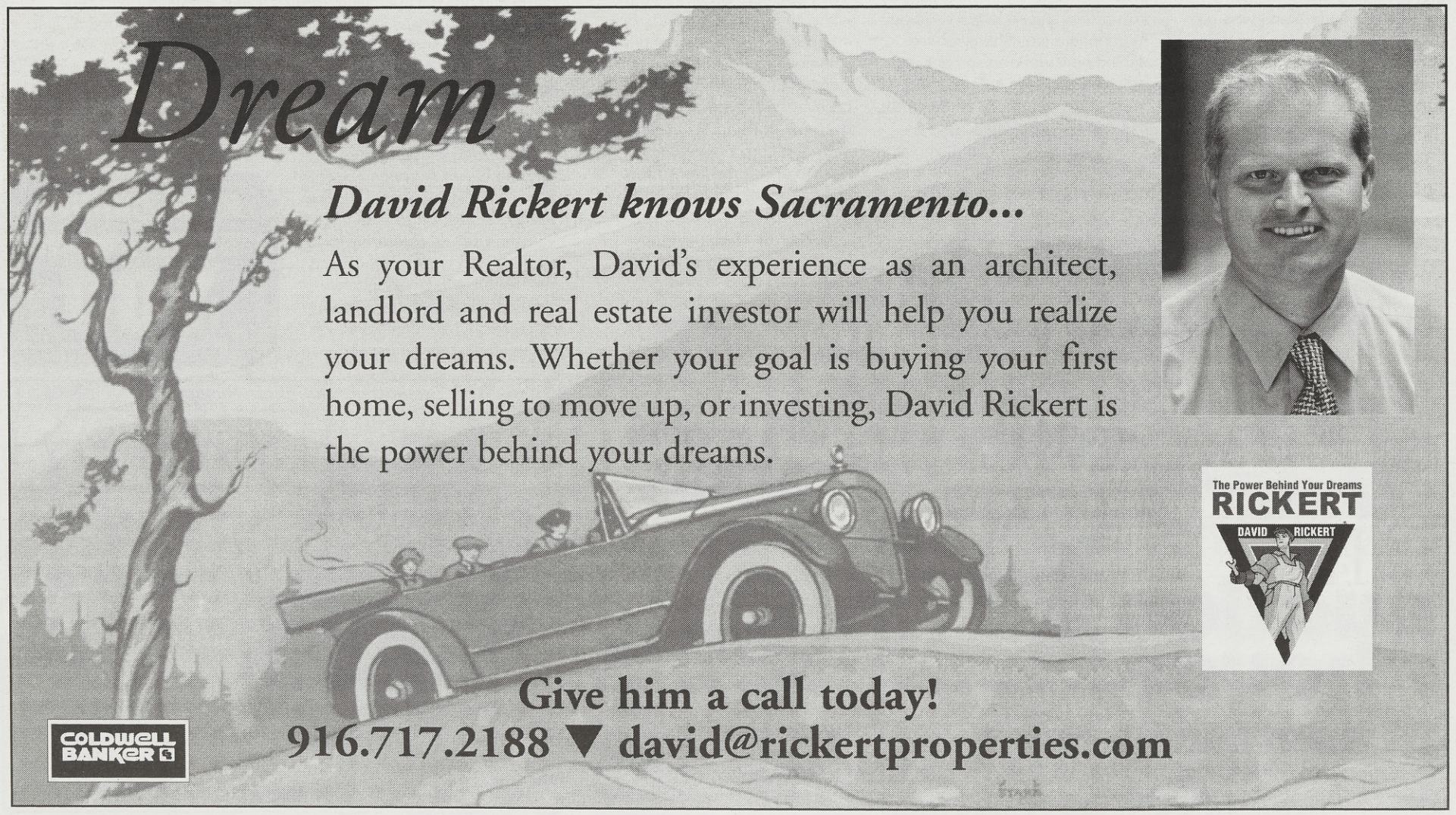


Last year Newsom sparked controversy in marrying almost 4000 gay and lesbian couples, come travelling from far and wide across the country. the action was followed by a number of Mayors, Clerks and Governors in other states taking on the same action. In all instances, the actions were quickly halted. Some resulting in fines, reprimands and even resignations.

On the evening of the announcement, EQCA and MECA supporters merged on Sacramento's Lambda Center and other local GLBT hubs to celebrate what all are calling a major victory for our community. "This is a historic ruling that says the freedoms guaranteed in our state's Constitution belong to all Californians," said Jennifer C. Pizer, Senior Counsel for Lambda Legal in the Western Regional Office and its lead attorney on the case. "The court recognized that same-sex couples aren't treated equally under the law unless we can marry. This ruling says that same-sex couples deserve all the protections and security marriage provides and that we're entitled to get them the same way straight couples do."

▼ ▼ ▼

"This ruling has been a long time coming. We still don't have full first class citizenship in the United States. Apparently California and Massachusetts will be the only places where we are endangered species." - Marghe Covino - Activist and President Emeritus - Lambda Community Fund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GLSEN Youth Workshop

by m.a.ross/mgw staff

It was almost like any other Saturday in February here in California, slight overcast that would burn off as the sun made its trek across the sky. On most Saturdays I'm usually trying to recoup from my Friday night escapades, but on Saturday, February 5, I was invited to be a part of gay history in the making, and attend a **G**ay **S**traight **A**lliance (**GSA**) Youth Leadership Workshop sponsored by **the G**ay, **L**esbian & **S**traight **E**ducation **N**etwork (GLSEN). The event was hosted by adult leaders Jerry O'Connor and Donna Matthews along with youth leaders Lance, Yvonne, Hector, and Renee.

GSA's are youth-led organizations that create safe environments in schools for students to find support and be educated about homophobia, gender identity, sexual orientation, and anti-gay discrimination. **GLSEN** is a national organization providing leadership, training, and resources to local **GSA** affiliates to provide schools with the "whys" and "wherefores" on contest these problems. The workshop, held at Valley High in Elk Grove, saw attendance from as far away as the Bay Area with some as young as 14, several brave teachers and a number of proud parents. Though there may have been a big difference in the ages of the students (14–22), where they lived, and what schools they went to, their stories and problems were all too similar and familiar. And sadly, it is an important issue in our community that often gets overlooked.

The workshop started with a unique meet-n-greet game that was a cross between "20 Questions" and "musical chairs", where after you've moved you introduce yourself to your neighbor. Afterward there was an exercise using the Kinsey Scale of sexuality—one being strictly heterosexual, six being strictly homosexual, and the numbers in-between to describing varying sexual degrees. A zero was added to the scale for those who wished their sexuality to remain anonymous. This exercise was used to show how perceived notions of sexuality can differ from their actual sexual identity.

One of the big topics of the day was AB537, the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 (that) changed California's Education Code by adding actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity to the existing nondiscrimination policy. Next O'Connor explained that the policy not only covers students against discrimination, but it also covers anyone working in a California public school or school receiving state funding except religious schools, and discussed how to file a harassment complaint in school and what was needed to file such a complaint, "The five W's of harassment are what, who, when, where, and witnesses." O'Connor finished his speech by saying,"Even though AB537 has been in place for 5 years, there have been no rulings on enforcement."

Donna Matthews took the floor to speak about SB71, authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl and sponsored by California affiliates of the ACLU and Planned Parenthood. SB71 is the California Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Act of 2004 which took effective January 1, 2004. The act has two parts: 1) to provide a pupil with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect his or her sexual and reproductive health from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; 2) to encourage a pupil to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender roles, sexual orientation, dating, marriage, and family."

Youth leaders spoke about the Day of Silence (www.dayofsilence.org), a student-led day of action where participants refrain from speaking for an entire day to protest, in essence, the silencing of LGBTQ students and their allies. The event was founded in 1996 at the University of Virginia and has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all.

Matthews informed everyone that although previous sex education classes discussed abstinence as a way of preventing pregnancy, now it *must* include language for LGBTQ youth as to the value of abstinence from sexual activity in preventing sexually transmitted diseases. **SB71** not only requires that all instruction and materials be appropriate for use with students of all races, genders, sexual orientations, ethnic, cultural backgrounds, as well as students with disabilities, but must also be age-appropriate (grades 7-12), medically accurate, and objective.

After a lunch break, everyone participated in an exercise called "Power Shuffle." People were asked to line up shoulder to shoulder in a line in the middle of the room. They were then asked a series of semi-personal questions and depending upon their answer, asked to take a step forward or backward. "All those whose parent or parents completed college, take one step forward" or "All those who have been stopped by the police while walking down a neighborhood street, take a step back." After this litany of questions and everyone standing at different distances they were then asked to race to the front of the room. The purpose of this exercise was to show the advantages and disadvantages people have in life and how they effect opportunities and achievements.

After another short break youth leaders spoke about the Day of Silence (www.dayofsilence.org), a student-led day of action where participants refrain from speaking for an entire day to protest, in essence, the silencing of LGBTQ students and their allies. The event was founded in 1996 at the University of Virginia and has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all. Hector and Renee then talked about how to participate in Day of Silence in schools. The group then discussed what kind of problems to expect and some creative ways to deal with them. This year's Day of Silence will be April 13.

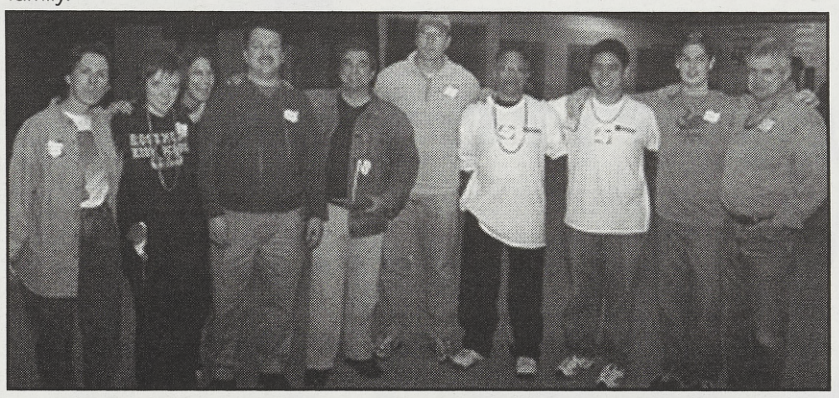

photo by curt hagen/mgw staff

Organizers Jerry O'Connor and Donna Matthews join Coordinators of the 2005 GSA Youth conference as they pose in the auditorium of Valley High in Elk Grove, the host of the conference.

Matthews then led a last exercise where everyone stood in a circle. She held one end of a large ball of string and asked each attendee to say one thing that they learned from today's meeting. As each person spoke, the ball of string was tossed to someone else, while the person still held a piece of the strong. By the end of the exercise colored string was laced throughout the circle. Matthews explained the purpose of the exercise was to show that we are all connected in some way, and without each other, the connections will fail. ▼

For more information on our local chapter of GLSEN visit: www.geocities.com/sacglsen/ or email sacglsen@yahoo.com or call at: 916.733.2135

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Where the Natives Go

by katrina torres/m gw staff

Los Jarritos 2509 Broadway

I've always thought it a crime to eat Mexican food without a nice, crisp, cold Corona on the side. However, the luxury of absorbing all of those liquid carbs is not one I can afford to indulge in very often, and as a result, I don't eat much Mexican food. But when I found myself in desperate need of comfort food, and the craving hit me for a big, fat taco, I decided to treat myself, and cruise for a modest little neighborhood type cocina to make myself feel better. Someplace bright and cheery. Someplace I hadn't tried before. Someplace where everyone spoke the language. And being the day before payday, someplace...well...cheap. I ordered the number five combination, which was a real bargain at less than 5 bucks. It came with hot tortilla chips, and a homemade salsa bar, with the first paper tray of chips for free, and additional helpings for 25 cents. The fire-roasted green chili salsa I selected was delicious, with tiny little bits of smoky, black-roasted skin and a nice tangy bite that had me wondering if my Corona was gonna do the job. But it passed the test; the bite melted away into a nice, smoky, full flavor, that complimented the crisp, very fresh chips perfectly.

When I order Mexican food, I rarely order tacos. That's because a lot of restaurants just plop that nice, crisp taco down on a pile of saggy garnish, rice or beans, and by the time you get it, your crisp taco is a droopy taco salad that gives way like a trapdoor 6 inches above the plate and dumps it's filling down the front of your shirt. But that wasn't the case with Los Jarritos, I'm happy to say. While my pork tamale, rice and beans were served on a warm plate; my still-crisp shredded beef taco was graciously brought to my table in a paper tray, which also made it more convenient to eat. It was stuffed with meat, lettuce, tomatoes and two kinds of cheese and was very good. The rice was orange, fluffy and kind of neutral tasting with an occasional little chunk of carrot in it, a new one on me. However, the combination was not at all unpleasant. The refried beans were pretty tasty, and speaking as someone who had been feeling like crud for 3 days, I was most grateful. I hadn't really expected to be able to taste anything, and part of my motivation for eating Mexican was because my slower than normal brain told me that spicy food had the best shot at getting through the hay fever haze to my underused, somewhat deadened taste buds. Nice work, brain. We could use someone like you around here!

The pork tamale was fat and nicely proportioned, with an ample portion of moist, shredded pork filling, and not overburdened with masa. I hate tamales that weigh eight ounces, but only have one ounce of filling in a lopsided blob that looks like it's been run over on one end by a Guatemalan tour bus. I prefer my food to look and taste...well, edible. The plate Los Jarritos served me was very nice, with the expertly made tamale bathed in a rich, red sauce (optional) and liberally crowned with shreds of melting cheese.

The food was good, and very reasonably priced. I got out the door for $7.22, including the Corona. The menu had all the standard favorites, along with fish tacos, tortas, huge burritos, vegetarian choices and even ceviche, which I would have tried had I seen it. I was tempted to try a Rainbow Fruit Bar (maybe tamarind), a scoop of ice cream, or even a homemade shake, but I didn't have room. Also offered were an assortment of Mexican pastries, traditional drinks, Arizona Iced Tea, a small but pleasing assortment of coffees, and an assortment of domestic and imported beers.

The invitingly casual interior of Los Jarritos has lots of places to park people, but making the same arrangements for your vehicle may be more of a challenge around dinnertime. It's a good place to bring the family, and you can watch the game on one of several TV's while you wait for your food, which came pretty fast on the Thursday night that I was there, even with the dinner hour rush.

Open daily from 8 am till 9 pm (9:30 pm on Friday and Saturday); Los Jarritos does a brisk take-out trade, with a $3. takeout minimum. With the most expensive item on the menu costing less than $8, it was the perfect place to go on the day before payday. However, when I go back that won't be a factor, because it will be the food, not the prices that bring me back. ▼

Los Jarritos is located at 2509 Broadway. Their phone number is 916.455.7911, and their fax is 916.455.7922, so you can call or fax ahead.

Los Jarritos menu

Appetizers

Nachos
Nachos Supreme
Chips & Salsa
Guacamole & Chips

Super Burritos

* Carnitas
* Carne Asada
* Chicken
* Beef
* Vegetarian

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A-La-Carte

Tacos
* Pescado *
* Carne Asada
* Carne Adobada
* Carnitas
* Lengua
* Chicken
* Shredded Beef

Burritos
* Beef & Bean
* Been & Cheese
* Chile Colorado
* Carnitas
* Carne Asada
* Chicken
* Shrimp
* Vegetarian

Tostada
* Beef
* Ceviche
* Chicken

Quesadilla
* Cheese
* Cheese & Chorizo
* Carne Asada

Flautas
* Beef
* Chicken

Combinations

1. Taco & Enchilada
2. Two Tacos
3. Taco & Burrito
4. Enchilada & Tamale
5. Tamale & Taco
6. Burrito & Enchilada
7. Chorizo con Huevos & Tortilla
8. Huevos Rancheros & Tortilla
9. Huevos Rancheros, Carnitas & Tortilla

Specialty Dishes

10. 2 Carnitas Tacos w Rice & Beans
11. 2 Carne Asada Tacos w Rice & Beans
12. Menudo - Small Bowl or Large Bowl
13. Torta de Carnitas or Carne Asada w Fries
14. 3 Sopes - Carnitas, Chicken or Beef w Rice & Beans
15. Chile Relleno w Rice and Beans
16. 3 Tacos de Pescado * w Rice & Beans
17. 2 Enchiladas - Salsa Verde w Rice & Beans
18. 2 Chicken Fajitas w Rice & Beans
19. Chimichanga
20. Pozole
21. Chile Verde w Rice, Beans & Tortilla
22. Fresh Shrimp Cocktail

Beverages

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TALK TO MOTHER

Dear Mother,

I think I am a pretty well adjusted guy, I don't have much drama in my life, I have a good job and friends. But when it comes to sex, I have a problem. I find myself only attracted to the men that I am at odds with. Like when a salesclerk is rude to me, I find myself laying awake at night fantasizing about confronting him, and then I always end up fantasizing about having sex with him. I am in a very competitive business, and each time I run into a competitor and they one up me, it's the same thing, I find myself extremely physically attracted to them. What is this? Do I need therapy? Signed, sexually confused.

Child, you may need therapy, but maybe not for this. It's actually a very common thing for people to end up being sexually attracted to those who sometimes infuriate us. Anger, passion and the need to mate are very strong emotional and physical drives, hence the term "crime of passion". Sometimes when someone stirs us to such strong emotions, we feel more alive, sometimes negatively, in your case positively. If this type of thing were rare, Meg Ryan would never have had a career making all those sappy "*You've Got Mail*" movies we all love to cry over. But, something you need to ask yourself is: why is it that I get these feelings over the slightest confrontation? Maybe you do have some anger issues you should confess to a therapist. Or maybe you are just dealing with your anger issues by "grudge-humping" them in your mind. Now the question is, "is this effecting my romantic life?"

Dear Mother,

I have noticed recently that I have forgotten how to relax and have fun, and I think I am driving my friends away because of it. I don't remember when I became such an intense person. I used to laugh all the time, I was often the life of the party. But over the past several years, I have become the stick-in-the-mud that stays with the coats. I have no enthusiasm or energy anymore. Any suggestions? Signed: Coat Check Girl.

Sister, I know just what you mean. My friend Mabel was always the first one on the dance floor, and the last one to get her butt in the car. But when she hit her 60's, she slowed down, too. We all thought, "she's just getting older", but it turned out she was suffering from a mild depression. So, ruling out physical problems like slow thyroid or needing to exercise on a regular basis, you may have a mild depression. Sometimes the answer to that is as easy as going outside and spending 15 minutes a day in the sun. Most of us are indoors all day and we forget that we need the Vitamin D from the sun to keep our fragile little minds from getting warped. If that doesn't help, you'll just have to face the fact that you're getting old. Kisses!

Talk to Mother is for entertainment purposes only. Neither MGW nor the author can be held liable for any injury or loss, perceived or actual, resulting from the above mentioned entertainment.

tarotscopes

by jessica rabbit

Dear Jessica, I have been dating this man for several months, and we have a deep soul-level connection. We have such a good time together. The other day he lost his job unexpectedly and now he is withdrawing from me. What should I do? —New York, NY

Dear Seeker, OK, slow down and breathe. This is not as bad as it seems. You are coming up as 2 of Wands, which means that you are embarking on a new level within your relationship. He is the 7 of Pentacles: concern over financial risk. Right now, he is afraid that he won't be able to do the things you have loved doing together that cost money- dinners, weekends away, etc. He doesn't want you to think he is "below" you in any way, so even if you offer to pay for everything, he still won't go for it. Instead, I want you to take a team-oriented approach with him, as indicated by the Temperance card. Tell him you think it's time you guys tightened your belts a bit and started eating at home, renting videos, walking in the park. These activities will not only bring a better financial balance to your relationship, they will also deepen your intimacy. Either way, your outcome cards (7 of Swords with 3 of Wands) suggest that after his initial hesitation based on a bruised ego, he will come around and be grateful for your patience.

Dear Jessica, My boyfriend has a double life. He is seeing me, but he's also got a girlfriend and he's not out to friends, family, or anybody else. I don't like it, but I don't want to lose him, either. Is this worth saving? -Richmond, CA

Dear Seeker, You know, it's a good thing I have my cards to guide me, because my first reaction was to say, "Dump the bastard and find someone who will give you what you deserve!" The cards, however, tell me that this guy can and will give you what you deserve, but it will take some time. You are Strength to him- he isn't used to having someone like you in his life. But he is 7 of Wands â¤" defiance and struggle. Also, I am seeing the Lovers, which represents love, choice, and change. He wants to choose a more authentic life with you, but he's scared of coming out, of disrupting the status quo, of his family and friends' reactions, etc. Your outcome cards, however, are 6 of Wands—achievement and recognition, with the Queen of Pentacles —nurturing and security. If you just hang on for a while longer, I believe he will come around to the space where he can find the courage to love you out in the open and leave his past behind.

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the bay area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person and can be reached at Jessica@sacred Tarot.com or via the web at sacredtarot.com. She also reads every friday night at the white horse bar on telegragh avenue in Berkeley.

HOROSCOPES by NEPHI

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Never one to take to authority, you will be even more challenged right now. Take a deep breath and just try to get along.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Always one to take the first step, beware that you may be coming on a bit strong for someone who could be a lifelong friend.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Usually good at making the right decision, rely on your wits to make a tough choice right now.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) When are you going to get a clue? A relationship is what you make it—if it's garbage then empty the trash and get a life.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Someone at your job may bite you in the behind. Be prepared and you may be able to move out of the way before this ugly viper strikes.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You need to remember that your partner may not be so ready to leap before they look. Talk it out and try meeting in the middle.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Now is a good time to organize what you've been putting off,or you'll find yourself wishing you had.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Enjoy your sexuality with a playful partner, but don't lose sight of those pesky domestic issues that may threaten the peaceful existence you try so hard to maintain.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) For every purchase you make right now, put the same amount in savings for that rainy day coming sooner than you think.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Selfish as ever, you risk making someone close to you very unhappy with your "it's all about me" behavior. Someone you've wronged may open their heart if your repentance is genuine.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Subconscious impulses from your youth are causing you to wig out. Find the core issues and find a way to get over it.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You can't help it if everyone loves you right now, your star is bright and everyone wants your attention. Don't stop being charming just because someone is threatened

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Domestic Partnership is a Dirty Word

by dan roth, president stonewalldemocratic club

The Republican Party needs a reality check. It started last week when Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican Senator from South Carolina and what Republicans call a "confirmed bachelor" was speaking at a dinner.

"We don't do Lincoln Day Dinners in South Carolina," Senator Graham told a Lincoln Day gathering in Tennessee. "It's nothing personal, but it takes awhile to get over things."

You would think that the Republican Party could at least honor President Abraham Lincoln for being the first Republican President of the United States, but apparently 140 years is not enough to get over the abolition of slavery.

However, the Republican reality check does not end with Senator Graham. Here in California Republicans in the Legislature are in deep need of a swift kick in ass. Take Assembly member Dennis Mountjoy, a Republican legislator from Southern California whose only claim to fame is his Daddy was a State Senator, so when Dennis's marriage failed and he couldn't find a job, Daddy set him up as an Assembly member, so he could come to Sacramento and preach about the sanctity of marriage and personal responsibility.

Fresh from President Bush's November election, Assembly member Mountjoy has decided to spread his own brand of craziness and has introduced Assembly Bill 349. The bill would fine school districts $5000 if they mention any of the following words: bisexuality, domestic partnerships, homosexuality, lesbianism, fellatio, or cunnilingus.

So in Assembly member Mountjoy's world, if a high school government teacher tells her class, "In California, domestic partners can visit their partners in the hospital," the school district would be fined $5000.

If in a sex-ed class the teacher says, "You should use protection even during oral sex because STDs such as herpes can still be passed from one partner to another," then the school district will be fined $5000.

If in a high school literature class the teacher says, "Oscar Wilde was put on trial for being a homosexual," or, "Willa Cather was a lesbian and therefore many lesbian themes appear in her book," then the school district will be fined $5000.

This bill sets a dangerous precedence because it changes the entire scope of education. Teachers and school districts will operate in fear of simply stating the truth about current state law, history, and science.

While Assembly member Mountjoy and the Republicans in the legislature stuck their heads in the sand, this country has continued to evolve. Students are

coming out earlier, public perception about same-sex couples have changed, and the State of Massachusetts legalized marriage equality. The religious right had been shouting for years that these advancements were going to mean the end of Western Civilization, but even after the Massachusetts decision an amazing thing happened: the sun rose; children went to school; people went to work, and the world as we know it did not end.

...Assembly Bill 349 would fine school districts $5000 if they mention any of the following words: bisexuality, domestic partnerships, homosexuality, lesbian...

The debate surrounding civil rights for gay and lesbian Americans continues, but we should not be using our schools as hostages for the religious right's insecurities. If the State of California forces our teachers to operate in a state of fear, and the Republicans continue to expand the role of big government into our classrooms just like they have into our marriages, then we will all suffer.

Unfortunately, Senator Graham has still not gotten over President Lincoln deciding that African Americans should be seen as people and not as property. Assembly member Mountjoy has not gotten over that gays and lesbians are Americans who work jobs, pay taxes and raise children. Assembly member Mountjoy could not keep his own marriage together, but that does not stop him from attacking homosexuals "deviants" on radio talk shows and yelling family values.

Senator Lindsey Graham will continue to use race bating as a way to win Republican votes, and the Republican Party will continue to use fear of minority communities as a method to maintain power wherever they can. ▼

GET INVOLVED!

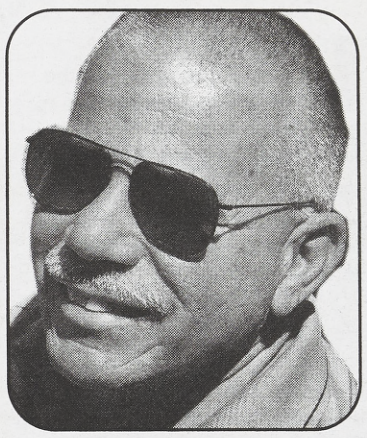
Fight Back

by sam catalano/mgw staff

As the newly appointed Executive Director of the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee, as one of the founders of the Stonewall Democratic Club; as host of the TV show Being Gay Today (with my infamous anti-Republican tirades), and as a proud openly gay man who dares to think he's the equal of any heterosexual, I am known for my dislike and, to be honest, hatred of all things Republican. So I state upfront that my rants have a bias and will never be evenhanded or balanced. If you want the Republican "Big Lie" version of fair and balanced, watch Fox news (more accurately known as the Republican Broadcasting Co.).

That said, am I always thrilled by all things Democratic? Hell no. The Democratic Party drives me nearly as nuts as the homohating holier-than-tho Republican Party. But it's generally not a disagreement on policy but on action, or more accurately again, the lack of action. The Democratic Party has some of the biggest wussy, girlie men and women I have ever met. It's always "We'll take the high road" rather than "Let's fight back. Thank the goddess that there is at least one Democrat with balls, and her name is Barbara Boxer. And now with Howard Dean as the new Chair of the Democratic National Committee, we may have another fighter. Goddess, I hope so!

If we Democrats are to stop this flood of hypocrisy and misinformation and Big Lies and corporate welfare and gay scapegoat



ing and massive deficits and unjustified imperial wars and vast transfers of wealth from the middle class to the super rich and the destruction of our environment (what global warming?) and... then we need to FIGHT BACK! In the LGBT community, that means fighting the Judge McMaster recall, that means joining the Stonewall Democratic Club and Equality CA and Lambda Letters and (although I can't believe I'm about to say this) even the Log Cabin Republicans. All of these folks are fighting the McMaster recall and preparing for the mother of all battles in 2006—the fight against the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnership benefits. Complaining accomplishes nothing without action. Whining feels good but it doesn't stop the wars and gay scapegoating. Get involved. Donate money. Let's try something different—let's Fight Back! ▼

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Lambda Players Quickly Becoming Phenom

by michaelshanahan/mgw staff

It's been a month since Lambda Players opened the doors of their new theatre to an outpouring of love from our community. Since then they have seen a successful opening night fundraiser, an explosion of media and press coverage, and best of all, a hit show.

Just Us Girls is now in its fifth week of an 8-week run and selling out on a regular basis. The show, written by local playwright and Lambda Players member Tom Swanner has the honor of being not only the first show to play in the new theatre, but is a world premiere itself, following up Swanner's show the season before, the hit *Trolling*.

"It's an honor that I just can't describe," says Swanner, a former actor who made his way home from Hollywood after an 8-year career in television and movies.

Most of a theater production's press comes at the beginning of a production, but a production carries on for weeks after the initial interest has died down. On Broadway a show can go for years; in Sacramento it is generally a few weeks. What is it like after the media hype has died down and the production is mid-run?

"It's as amazing as the first day we walked into auditions," said Barbara Friz, the actress playing the sports-dyke Pat. "Matt (the director) created a very welcome and family environment for us to work in. Since the group takes place in a discussion group, he had us start each rehearsal by each of us saying one bad thing, and one good thing, that happened to us that day. It helped us bond as performers and friends."

The other actresses agree with Friz, all saying they are as enthusiastic about the show as the night it opened. Some have suggested a tour of the show. Artistic Director Matthew Burlingame says while this show won't tour, that the idea of touring shows through Yuba-Sutter, Fresno and other outlying areas has come up before, and may one day be a reality. "But not anytime soon."

Just Us Girls faced a giant hurdle in its second week as Melissa Wilson, the actress who plays the sultry, sexy Ida, was sledding with partner and children and broke her left leg. After surgery to place pins around the broken bones, Wilson's first thought was about the play.

"Her partner called me while she was in surgery," says Burlingame. "We were mortified. Melissa is such a sweet person, and so determined, we were all worried about her."

Though she had to sit out several performances to heal, the cast and crew made accommodations for Wilson to do her part on crutches. "Audiences love it," says stage manager Brian Judd. "As we discussed it, we all agreed that anyone at anytime can break their leg, and they don't stop going to work or most other places because of it, why wouldn't she attend a support group?"

The cast pokes fun at the situation by ad-libbing lines such as 'stop it or I'll break your other leg'. It is just another way of knowing this cast is a family.

The play, which takes place in a GLBT library will also be holding a special matinee performance on April 3 for L.L.A.C.E. A reception and book sale at the theatre will follow.

Next on the agenda for Lambda Players is their annual Local Playwright's Weekend, April 7, 8 and 9. Each year the group looks for submissions from local playwrights as a way for them to get exposure and feedback on their projects. This year both Swanner and Burlingame have will be debuting new projects.

Swanner will present *I Do, I Don't*, a comedy about gay marriage and the issues surrounding it.

Burlingame will present *Written On The Hill*. "It's a working title," he confesses. "It's a very different play for me. My plays usually have an element of 'who is this going to piss off?' about them. This is just a simple love story about a bitter former journalist finding love and facing past demons." Burlingame assures the story is not biographical.

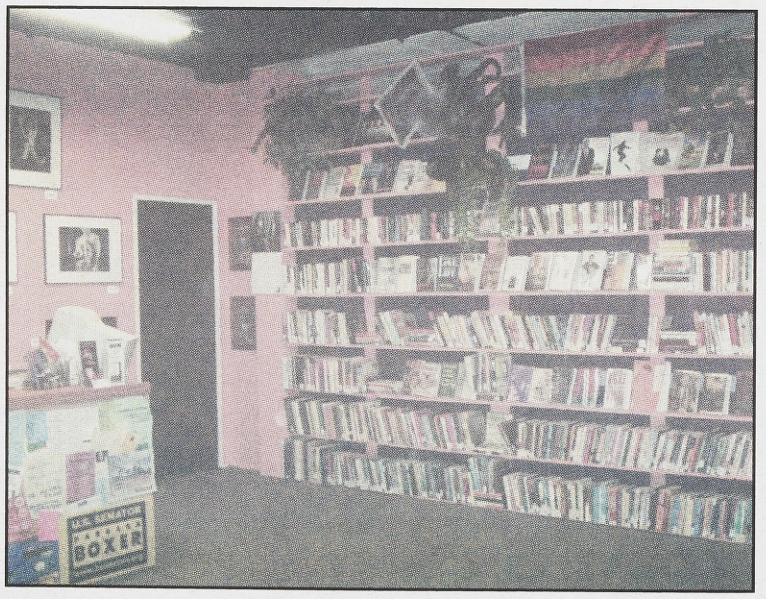
The third play has yet to be announced, "We had a play selected, but we've had several works by local writers come in," says board member Steve Buri. "We prefer promoting local writers, so we'll probably use one of those scripts now."

Rehearsals have also started for their second play in the new theatre, Del Shores' drama-comedy *Southern Baptist Sissies*. The story revolves around the experiences of four boys growing up in a Baptist Church in Texas and how they handle their homosexuality. The show is set to open April 15, and run for five weeks.

To see Just Us Girls Call: 916.444.8229, or email: reservations@lambdaplayers.com Tickets: $15, $13, 8 or more, students with ID, seniors 65+, SARTA, LoST., Address: 2427 17th Street (Just off Broadway), Sacramento; Thurs., Fri., Sat. @ 8pm; Sun. @ 2pm; Remaining Performances: Fri.: Mar. 18, 25, Apr. 1 Sat: Mar. 19, 26, Apr. 2, Special LLACE Fundraiser: Sunday, April 3, $20. Call 916.444.8229 for reservations.

The cast of the hit show *Just Us Girls* (L to R) Marian Nishimura, Joanne Smith-Ripp, Susan soesbe, Sandra McCord, Barbara Friz, Melissa Wilson (Front) Janee Anson, Reha Zamani

The "girls" in *Just Us Girls* take a break on the set after closing another weekend of sold-out performances.



Artistic director Matthew Burlingame designed the set, which includes a wall of over 1000 books from the Lavender Library.

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"Women Change America"

If It Weren't For the Women: Revolutionaries, Visionaries, and Every Day Heroes

TRUE COLORS Women's Chorus, the California Commission on the Status of Women, National Women's History Project and the Sacramento YWCA present a special event: Women change America, to take place on Saturday, March 19, 2005, 7:30pm at the Sacramento YWCA, 17th and L Streets, and Sunday, March 20, 2005, 3pm Matinee, United Methodist Church of Davis, 1620 Anderson Road, Davis. the event will have a suggested donation of of $15, seniors/students $10

Come celebrate the lives of women who have changed and who continue to change the world, and help us celebrate the 85th anniversary of women's right to vote, the 40th anniversary of the California Commission on the Status of Women, and the 25th anniversary of the National Women's History Project. TRUE COLORS Women's Chorus will perform music and provide a multimedia presentation on women throughout history. TRUE COLORS Women's Chorus is a 501c(3) non-profit and donations will help support the work we do in the Sacramento community.

photo curtis Hagen/mgw staff

Above: The TRUE COLORS Women's Chorus performs at the Lambda Center Holiday Gathering.

For more information and advance tickets, contact Kate Brennan at 916-444-8423 or katebrennan@sbcglobal.net.

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Lavender Library and Lambda Players plan fundraiser

The Lavender Library, Archives & Cultural Exchange (LLACE) and Lambda Players are teaming up for a special fundraiser Sunday April 3, as part of the library's Cultural program. The fundraiser will consist of a matinee performance of the hit show Just Us Girls, which is based on the library and dedicated to the memory of LLACE founder Gail Lang.

The show will be followed by a dessert reception and a book sale. The event will take place at the new Lambda Players theatre, 2427 17th Street, Sacramento. Proceeds will benefit the library's audio/visual collection which will include movies on DVD, documentaries, and books on CD.

Event coordinator, LLACE Board Member Clint Vigen has made it his mission to enrich the library's Culture outreach, which in the past has included open mic nights, bringing in authors such as Ann Bannon, and participating in the Gay History Project at the state capitol.

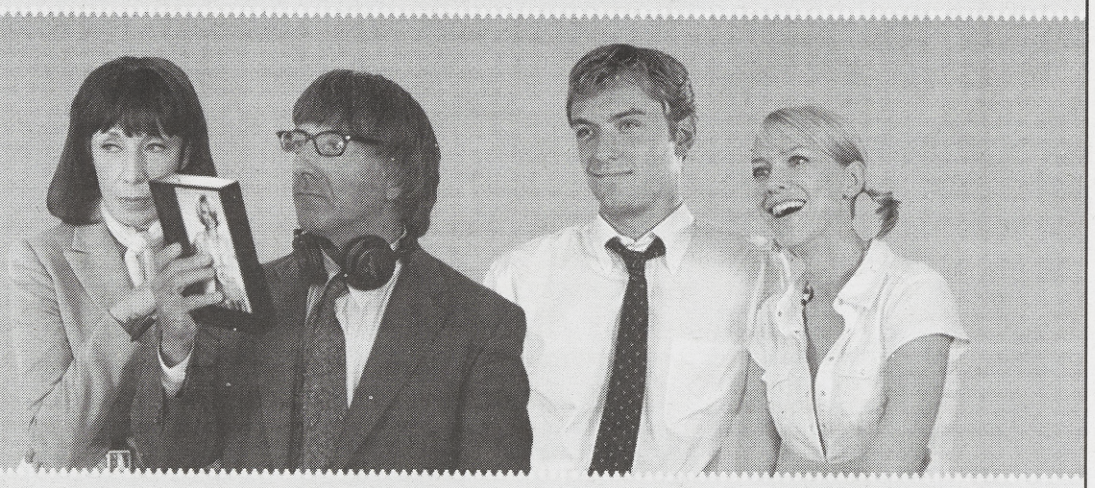
Both nonprofits have a history of supporting one another. In 2003-2004, LLACE was the site of monthly playreadings for the theatre troupe. The Lambda Players current show features a 10 foot tall and 12 foot wide wall, as part of the set which is covered in books on loan from the library. The books, many of which are considered classic GLBT literature, will be part of the book sale featured at the event.

Event tickets are $15 for Pride Preserver members of LLACE and $20 for non-members. For more information on attending this special event, call 916.492.0558. for ticket reservations call 916.444.8229. or email llaceevent@lambdaplayers.com. Limited tickets are available.

▼ ▼ ▼

"LAUGH-OUT-LOUD FUNNY...A STELLAR CAST!"
–New York Post

Dustin HOFFMAN Lily TOMLIN Mark WAHLBERG
Jason SCHWARTZMAN Naomi WATTS Jude LAW Isabelle HUPPERT Directed by DAVID O. RUSSELL



OWN IT TODAY ON DVD!

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FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Defeat of the Will

by stefan gruenwedel/m gw staff

Downfall

Starring Bruno Ganz, Alexandra Maria Lara, Corinna Harfouch, Ulrich Matthes. Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel. (Rated R, 156 min.)

Another film about Adolf Hitler? Hasn't he been portrayed enough in films? The short answer is no, he has not—not by the Germans at any rate. As far back as Charlie Chaplin's The Great Dictator in 1940 (you can't go back any farther that that), Hitler has appeared as a grotesque caricature. And no wonder: how else to explain his dangerously influential persona, his primitive ideology, and his dominance over an entire continent for half a dozen years?

Courtesy Photo/New Market Films

In *Downfall*, an aging Hitler and Ava Braun, the woman who would become known as the love of his life, face the possibility of a wartime defeat.

Just ten years after World War II, Austrian director G.W. Pabst made "Der Letzte Akt" (released in English as Hitler: The Last Ten Days), which portrayed Hitler in his bunker as Berlin fell to the Allies, bringing World War II to an end in Europe. All of this is seen from the point of view of an ordinary German soldier. Hitler seems in a daze as his empire crumbles around him, making him look pathetic, even human.

Oliver Hirschbiegel takes the essence of Pabst's film and expands upon it in Downfall ("Der Untergang"), an intriguing, sobering portrait of Hitler and his closest advisors during the last days of the Third Reich.

Hitler sure ranks up there with the big guys who go by one name—like Caesar, Napoleon, and Stalin. Yet he was little more than a humdrum artist without his merciless entourage to back him up, blindly executing his orders because he held all the power—and knew how to dish it out.

Confined to his bunker below Nazi headquarters in Berlin, Hitler (Bruno Ganz) rules his roost consisting of various generals and ministers—some of them petty powerbrokers themselves—who are too scared to tell the Führer that Germany is losing the war, and losing it badly.

Battalions of soldiers that Hitler commands to be moved from point A to point B simply do not exist anymore. Lines of communication have been severed. Supplies of ammunition and food are dwindling, if not depleted. Tensions are running high, to put things mildly.

Into this volatile mix comes a young woman, Traudl Junge (Alexandra Maria Lara), who is hired as Hitler's private secretary to type up his increasingly inflammatory dictations. As she learns about life and work in the bunker, we realize the scope of the madness surrounding her.

Bombs are falling, the Soviet Red Army is closing in, lights are flickering, people are executed, children are "put to sleep"—and all that Hitler's girlfriend, Eva Braun (Juliane Köhler), wants to do is party.

Based on the German best-seller by Joachim Fest, "The Downfall: Inside Hitler's Bunker," as well as the firsthand account by secretary Junge herself—who was interviewed in the mesmerizing 2002 documentary, "Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary"—Downfall goes to great lengths to convey Hitler's last days as they actually happened. The sets are claustrophobic, the lighting is natural-source, and the acting is superb.

Thanks to a short recording secretly made of Hitler at a birthday party, Ganz was able to study Hitler's unusual accent. He also studied Hitler's mannerisms. The result is a portrait of a truly frightening, deluded, small man. No wonder Downfall was nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Foreign Language Film category. Ganz could win an Oscar alone for his ability to seethe—and yet he does not stoop to caricature.

If Downfall has a downfall, it's that it forays too much above ground to show the larger, equally insane context in which Berlin fell. Children operate artillery because there are no more soldiers available. Renegade militia execute civilians because they won't go on suicide missions. It's all powerful stuff. However, besides contributing to the longish 156-minute running time, it detracts from the interesting confines of the psychological torture chamber below ground, where Germany's fate lies in the hands of a delusional control freak who seeks to exact revenge on the very people he ruled with an iron fist.

***Downfall* opens March 18 at the Tower Theater. Info: www.downfallthefilm.com.**

The image of the Aryan family was the driving force behind Hitler's desire to forge the Hitler Youth Program.

Courtesy Photo
New Market Films

Two Books From Green Candy Press Capture Comic Attention

Wake Up Romeo

by michaelshanahan/mgw staff

Publisher: Green Candy Press
ISBN: 1931160260
Hardcover
128 pages

The concept is simple, after the first year or two, we all settle into our relationships, and as we find that comfortable niche, we sometimes let things lapse in the romance department. True of all relationships, gay lesbian or straight, *Wake Up Romeo* is a book that gives very real, but still tongue-in-cheek, advice on how to spice up the romance in a relationship that might have become a little stagnant.

There are 50 tips within the books 128 pages; each one accompanied by an illustration reminiscent of the old '50s and '60s pop-culture advertising cartoon characters. Only these characters are as gay as can be. The book focuses primarily on gay male relationships, but most of the tips can work for any sagging relationship.

Wake Up Romeo brings new life to relationships

Author and illustrator Carlos Marrero began his illustration career working as a designer and fashion illustrator. In 1993 he launched a freelance career teaching, first at his alma mater—the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, then later at the Ray Vogue College of Design, Miami Dade Community College and The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

But teaching and Wake Up Romeo aren't his only ventures into the world of design and publishing. He is a regular contributor for OUT magazine and The Advocate and a columnist for XODUS and Genre magazines.He also boasts a client portfolio that includes top names in consumer products and the publishing industry, including Abercrombie & Fitch, Vogue, People, Business Week and Good Housekeeping.

Branching beyond the book, Marrero also has a website with regular tip updates and other goodies.

Check it out at www.wake-upromeo.com/. Wake Up Romeo, the book, can be purchased from most any online bookstore, and is also available through The Open Book at www.openbookltd.com.

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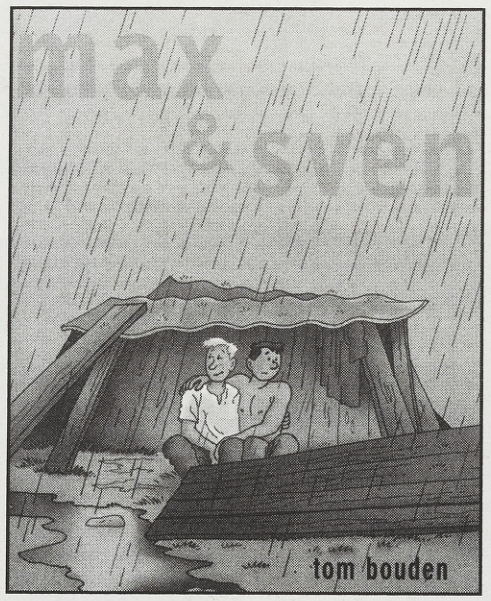
Max & Sven

by matthew burlinagme/mgw editor



Max and Sven
by Tom Bouden
$13.95
Paperback: 96 pages
Publisher: Green Candy Press
ISBN: 1931160295

Max and Sven are childhood friends who maintain their friendship into adulthood despite Sven's being straight and Max's being gay. With equal doses of laugh-out-loud humor and wry insight, artist Tom Bouden highlights and dispels many misconceptions about gay and straight culture. Created in 1990 as part of an advertising campaign for a gay youth club, Max and Sven quickly rose to stardom with leading roles in their own comic.

The strip was started by Belgian comic artist Tom Bouden's and is hailed as "a breezy and refreshingly angst-free tale." This is true for the most part. With a strong beginning, the first 60 pages are Max and Sven's tale; the rest of the book is composed of one- or two-page sexy and humorous vignettes from Bouden's syndicated work, some dating back to 1994. Most of the strips are enough to keep a comic lover interested, but because the comics are originally written in the artists native language, sometimes the humor of a situation gets lost in the translation.

Bouden was born in Ostend, Belgium in 1971. At age 11 he decided he wanted mto become a famous comicartist. Soon after, the first pages of 'Piet & Inge' are drawn. The toons would be published in a monthly magazine of a local youthclub and later would win a comic contest on television.

You can check out more of his work at www.tombouden.be/.

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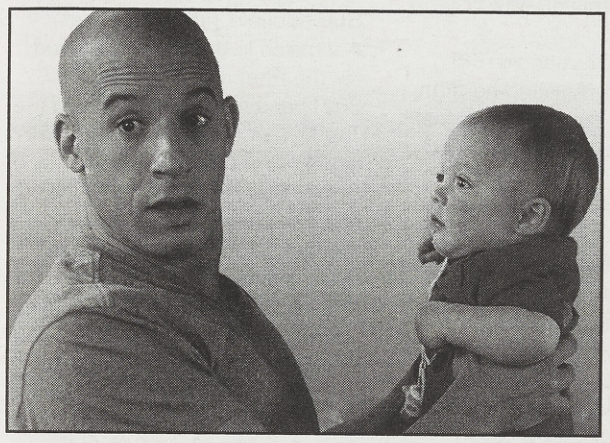
March has slow start with movies: *Be Cool* is Hot, *The Jacket* is Not



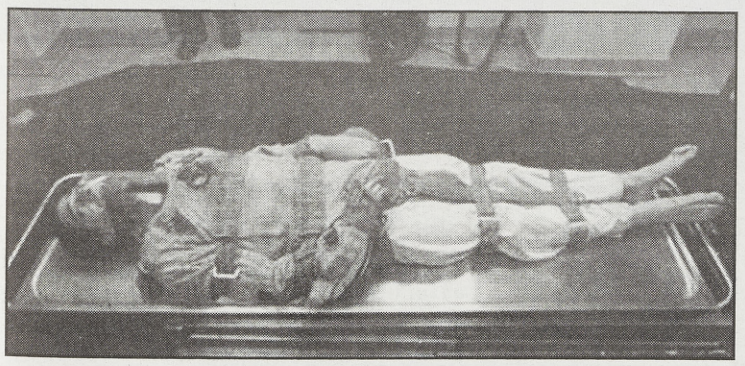
The Pacifier starring Vin Diesel opens this month.

Swanner: Hey Brian, now that we're writing for *MGW* does that make us syndicated?

Judd: I think it does! And who knows what this could lead to! Maybe I could cut an album and have Chili Palmer produce it?

Swanner: No, he's too big for us. But since you brought up Chili Palmer, why don't you tell me what you thought of *Be Cool*?

Judd: *Be Cool* is the sequel to 1995's *Get Shorty*. Chili Palmer has given up on the movie business and brings his mafioso-savvy to the music biz. As stupid as it sounds, I thought I might not get *Be Cool* since I can hardly remember *Get Shorty*. For all of those out there that feel the same way, the two movies share the same characters, but that's about it. There's no back plot, and what we're supposed to remember, we're reminded about.



The Jacket stars Adrien Brody in a twisted tale of time jumping.

Swanner: I agree. The only thing I remembered about *Get Shorty* was that I didn't really like it. I know I walked in thinking I'd probably not like the film but was pleasantly surprised. It reminded me of all those big, old Hollywood films where every star in town wanted to do a cameo. They were always fun films and this plays right into that concept.

Judd: *Be Cool* was a fun film. The cast was excellent and no one took themselves too seriously—thank goodness Sean Penn wasn't cast—you could tell that everyone on the set was having a good time. And I think The Rock had the most fun playing Vince Vaughn's big gay body guard.

Swanner: I agree. I'd also throw Vince Vaughn in as having a lot of fun. When he and The Rock are on screen, one or the other of them is always making you laugh. I really enjoyed the film and oddly enough I think I'd like to see it again. I know you didn't see *The Pacifier* which is too bad since I thought Vin Diesel looked fantastic in the tight white T-shirt he wore through most of the film. That with The Rock in that little Hawaiian number...it was a good week for movies!

Judd: Unfortunately, *Be Cool* was the only movie that I saw this past week that I really enjoyed. *The Jacket* and *Robots* both fell short in my opinion. Oh, and by the way, I finally saw *The Aviator*. It was very good and deserved all the hubbub it received.

Swanner: Well, *The Pacifier* was good. Good for a family film more than good for adults with no children (and you know who you are). The film really wants to be *Kindergarten Cop*, but it has trouble towing that line between a kids movie and an adult movie. Too often I felt I was watching one of those awful *Love Bug* movies from the '70s. My husband, Danny, kept repeating how much it sucked, but the tight T-shirt was working for me. So what in *The Jacket* fell short?

Judd: *The Jacket* had way too many plot holes—which I know is common for a time-travel movie—but it seemed that the whole premise of the movie was founded on one giant plot hole. The film held my interest but it was asking WAY too much when it came to suspension of disbelief.

Swanner: But Adrian Brody had two—count them, two—tighty whitey scenes

Judd: Too bad he looked like a junkie!

Swanner: It was his acting that caught my eye. I liked it better than you did because I understand time travel films and I forgive them. I thought it was edgy and it kept my interest. It's not a film I'm waiting to see again, but I did enjoy it. Did you notice how old Kris Kristopherson has gotten?

Judd: Poor Kris. He looked like an apple doll—all dried and leathery.

Kris Kristopherson in *The Jacket*

Kris Kristopherson as an apple doll

Swanner: And I thought he looked like crap in *A Star is Born*. You mentioned that *Robots* also fell short for you. I'd not been looking forward to seeing it after the string of really bad previews they've been playing since Moses walked through the desert. I was sitting in the audience encircled by hundreds—if not thousands—of noisy kids and I still really liked the film. What didn't you like about it?

Judd: I didn't like that the movie gave 45 minutes of a really good plot, but the other 45 minutes was bad schtick. The movie would be plugging along at a good pace, and then all of a sudden the plot would halt and there would be 10 minutes of bad jokes or dancing or something completely unrelated. It would be one thing if this was groundbreaking animation and they were trying to wow the audience. But we're all familiar with computer generated animation, and this was nothing special. It felt like filler.

Swanner: Calm down—it's a kids film, hence the fart sequence. Adults get the plot and the kids get the Brittany Spears take offs. I thought it was a lot of fun. The only thing I didn't like is that it seemed like they were really trying to appeal to every demographic they could. Kind of like *Shark's Tale*.

Judd: I had no problems with the fart sequence! You know I love a good fart joke. And as for appealing to every demographic, maybe these other studios should study Pixar a little more, instead of doing cheap imitations.

Swanner: By the way, which did you like better *Million Dollar Baby* or *The Aviator*?

Judd: I liked *The Aviator* better. It didn't rely on a gimmick to make an impression like *Million Dollar Baby* did. If *Million Dollar Baby* hadn't ended the way it did, it wouldn't have been nearly as popular.

Swanner: I think had it ended how I thought it was going to end it would have been wildly popular. It would have been a girl Rocky and you know how popular Rocky was. I liked The Aviator better as well, but neither would have been my pick for best picture. I'm giving *Robots* "▼▼▼", even in a room filled with kids I had a good time, *Be Cool* also gets "▼▼▼", liked it but not loved it. *The Jacket* gets "▼▼" because it held my interest and *The Pacifier* gets "▼▼" for a likeable movie with one great t-shirt.

Judd: I agree with most of your ratings, except *Robots*. *Be Cool* deserves "▼▼▼". I would have given it more for the Sergio Mendes cameo, but he and the Black Eyed Peas destroyed Jobim's "Insensatez". *The Jacket* really was only worth "▼▼". It was entertaining, but the plot holes killed it for me. I think you were generous with *Robots*, though. I'm giving it "▼▼"

Judd: *Be Cool* was a fun film. The cast was excellent and no one took themselves too seriously—thank goodness Sean Penn wasn't cast—you could tell that everyone on the set was having a good time. And I think The Rock had the most fun playing Vince Vaughn's big gay body guard.

Swanner: I agree. I'd also throw Vince Vaughn in as having a lot of fun. When he and The Rock are on screen, one or the other of them is always making you laugh. I really enjoyed the film and oddly enough I think I'd like to see it again.

RATING SYSTEM

"▼▼▼▼▼" = SEE IT NOW!
"▼▼▼▼" = SEE IT SOON!
"▼▼▼" = SEE IT IF U CAN!
"▼▼" = SEE THE DVD!
"▼" = RUN AWAY!

Monarchs Announce changes for 2005

MONARCHS ACQUIRE 2004 STANFORD STANDOUT NICOLE POWELL IN TRADE FOR SMITH

Sacramento Also to Receive Scott-Richardson and Buescher

The Sacramento Monarchs announced that the franchise acquired guard/forward Nicole Powell, center Olympia Scott-Richardson and forward/guard Erin Buescher in a trade with the Charlotte Sting. In exchange, Charlotte will acquire Sacramento's Tangela Smith and the Monarchs second round pick in the 2006 WNBA Draft.

Nicole Powell, the three-time Kodak All-American (2002-2004), was drafted by the Charlotte Sting as the third overall pick of the 2004 WNBA Draft and averaged 4.3 points and 2.3 rebounds per game in her rookie season. This 6-2, four-year Stanford standout averaged 17.3 points, 9.6 rebounds and 4.8 assists during her college career and left as Stanford's all-time leader in career rebounds (1,143) and third all-time leading scorer (2,062). As a senior she earned Associated Press First Team honors, was named the Most Outstanding Player in the NCAA Tournament Midwest Region and was selected as a finalist for the Naismith Award (third nomination), the State Farm Wade Trophy and the inaugural Wooden Award. Powell also earned the Pac-10 Player of the Year Award twice (2003-04; 2001-02) and was named to the First-Team All-Pac 10 in each of her four seasons. She is currently finishing her degree at Stanford during the 2004-05 off season.

"Nicole was a dominant player in college and we have always had an interest in her," said Monarchs Head Coach and General Manager John Whisenant. "Her style of play gives us exactly what we need - a perimeter shooter that can also pass the ball."

Charlotte will gain a seven-year WNBA veteran in Tangela Smith who was a five-year starting forward for the Monarchs. Smith helped the Monarchs advance to the WNBA Western Conference Finals three times in the past four seasons and played in 193 consecutive games with the franchise.

"Charlotte wanted Tangela because she was a perfect fit for their needs. The Monarchs needed a greater perimeter presence and we got that in this trade. We wish Tangela all the best in her move to Charlotte," said Whisenant.

Fellow Stanford alumna (1998), Olympia Scott-Richardson, is a six-year veteran of the WNBA and was originally drafted by the Utah Starzz in the second round (No. 11 overall) of the 1998 WNBA Draft. She signed with Charlotte in 2004 as a free agent after sitting out the 2003 season due to a knee injury while still a member of the Indiana Fever (2001-03). Scott-Richardson has averaged 5.6 points and 3.7 rebounds per game during her WNBA career. Currently, she is in her second season with the William Smith College women's basketball program and was recently promoted from interim head coach to head coach in January of 2005.

Erin Buescher was initially drafted by the Minnesota Lynx in the second round (No. 23 overall) of the 2001 WNBA Draft and was acquired by the Charlotte Sting in a 2002 WNBA Draft-day deal. She has been on Charlotte's injured list since, August 6, 2003. The 2001 Master's College graduate has averaged 3.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 1.1 assists per game in her three WNBA seasons. Buescher is currently in New Zealand playing for the Harbour Breeze.

"Both Olympia and Erin have proven themselves to be quality WNBA players. They have both been actively working on their game and we are excited to see how they perform in training camp," Whisenant said.

The Sacramento Monarchs first regular season home game will be on Saturday, June 4 at ARCO Arena when the Monarchs host the Los Angeles Sparks at 1:00 p.m. in a game to be nationally televised on ABC.

Fans are asked to call (916) 419-WNBA for information about season ticket plans. For more information, please visit the Monarchs website at www.SacramentoMonarchs.com

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MONARCHS SIGN TWO TOP AUSTRALIANS FROM THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Grima and Wilson The Latest Australian Additions To The WNBA

The Sacramento Monarchs announced that Hollie Grima and Carly Wilson of Australia have signed contracts with the franchise. The addition of Grima and Wilson increases the number of international players on the Monarchs roster to six (Ticha Penicheiro - Portugal, Hamchétou Maïga - Mali, West Africa, Sui Feifei and Miao Lijie - China).

Grima, the 22-year-old, 6-2 center, recently finished her fifth season in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) and has played for the Bulleen Melbourne Boomers for the past two seasons. She concluded the 2004-05 season among the Top 10 in MVP votes for the WNBL while averaging 16.3 points, 8.6 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game.

Women's National Basketball League All-Star (2002-03), Wilson, has helped guide the Dandenong Rangers to two consecutive WNBL Championships. This 5-9, 23-year-old guard has played in the WNBL for seven seasons and was recently honored with the Janine Fielder Award, voted on by her teammates and was also the recipient of the Coaches Award by her team for the 2004-05 season. Wilson averaged 11.8 points, 4 rebounds and 2.1 blocks per game this past year.

"Carly and Hollie have played in the WNBL with the likes of Lauren Jackson and Penny Taylor. Based on the success of Jackson and Taylor we think Carly and Hollie will have a great future in the WNBA," said Sacramento Monarchs Head Coach and General Manager John Whisenant. "Carly's WNBL team won back-to-back championships and Hollie's team lost in the semi-finals this past season. We can't wait to see how they will perform in training camp."

The all-time WNBA international players lists boasts 18 Australians (through 2004), 16% of the all-time global roster. All-Star Michele Timms, the first Australian in the WNBA, played for the Phoenix Mercury (1997-2001) and was ranked among the Top Five in assists per game during her first three seasons. Sandy Brondello, a 1999 WNBA All-Star, played five seasons in the league and currently ranks third all-time in WNBA career three-point field goal percentage.

Four-year WNBA veteran, Penny Taylor, was a member of the 2002 All-Star team, currently plays for Phoenix, while Seattle's three-time All-Star and 2003 WNBA MVP, Lauren Jackson (2001-current) has led the league in scoring for the past two years.

Grima and Wilson join fellow 2004-05 WNBL players Jessica Bibby (Seattle) and Katria Hibbert (Indiana) who have newly signed with WNBA teams this season. Both Bibby (New York 2000-01) and Hibbert (Seattle 2000) have WNBA experience.

▼ ▼ ▼

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Road, River & Rail

by matt ross/mgw staff

Love was denied / Seventeen and barely seized / Into the fog we ran feeble-headed / Love brought in thirst / It was a focus that I cherished "Road, River and Rail" - Cocteau Twins

February has now passed us by, and I can't help but be a little sad. february is a special time of year for me. It's the first month in the year that exhibits the promise of spring—the season of rebirth & romance. February's days may be crisp and bright, but it still has some chilly nights just perfect for snuggling up next to a loved one. So is it any wonder that a holiday devoted to love and romance lays smack dab in the middle of the month? I'm talking about, of course, St. Valentines Day.

As I recall the story that was told to me, Valentine was a religious man who was beloved by children, but imprisoned for speaking up and sticking to his beliefs. (I guess some things just never change…) During Valentine's imprisonment the children missed him so much they made small notes to pass to him through the prison windows. Showing Valentine that he may have been locked away and out of sight, but that the children were thinking about him and still adored him. This is purportedly where the tradition of giving a note of affection to a loved one comes from and why it's called a "Valentine." FYI: People are only Saint-ed after they die. (Fat lot of good it does them then… eh?)

Somewhere along the way, the holiday become a reason for school teachers to require children to bug their parents for pre-made notes of admiration decorated with hearts, flowers and/or the latest cartoon characters. Along with these Valentines usually comes chalky candy hearts that have short sentiments like "stay sweet" or commanding demands like "be mine" and there is usually bits of bite-sized pieces of chocolate wrapped in pink, red or silver foil. All this equates more or less to busy work at school and a cheap sugar high. It also creates this awkward rationale on the part of students to give the best cards and candy to the students they like and to give the dregs to other students they are not even interested in or care about.

The adult version of St. Valentines Day is no better…fewer people to buy for, but way more expensive. Adoring or amorous Valentines Day cards (That just put money into the pockets of the homophobes at Hallmark anyway.), ridiculously over sized heart shaped boxes of waxy chocolates (People please, if your going to buy chocolates for Valentines Day, please buy *good* chocolates. It's not that much more expensive, it will taste so much better and it will have more of the chemical compounds that make that special someone feel more extraordinary!—but I digress.)

Over-priced roses, romantic candlelit dinner for two, jewelry, stuffed animals, sexy undergarments, etc., etc. Which all equates to (hopefully) a 'happy ending' to the evening. The St. Valentine's Day holiday is almost as commercialized and callous as Christmas! Most of this holiday commercial blitz is aimed at heterosexual women and their unsophisticated mates who wait until this time of year to be reminded that women like to be wooed with romantic stuff. If straight guys just did romantic things like brought home an inexpensive bouquet of flowers or a romantic card, say once a month or so, women wouldn't make such a big deal about St. Valentine's Day.

Who decided that romance should only get one day a year to be tarted up and celebrated? What kind of romance comes from a store? Does romance come in some pre-packaged fantastic plastic doohickey with a big red bow that says, "I 'heart' U"? This is not the kind of romance I am looking for.

I find love & romance to be too vital in my life to be confined to one day a year and to be exulted with overpriced schmaltz. I love my hus-bear too much to show my devotion to him only once a year with just tacky material objects of affection. On any given weekend we might take a drive to the woods and have a picnic in the park. I might take the time to bake him a batch of cookies, write him a poem or just simply sit with him on the couch with my arm around him as we watch a ball game. Sometimes it's the simplest things in life make for great romance.

Lots of people think romance comes from your heart, but it doesn't, it comes from inside your head. Your brain and some simple observations should tell you what your sweetheart likes in the love & romance department! Your heart just exalts the emotion of love so it gets most of the attention and credit.

Love; now there's a word that people use superficially and without a second thought to its originally intended meaning. The word "love" has been attached to just about everything and anything to get people to pay attention—used like a carrot on a string in everything from our cultural music to advertising. I think Paul McCartney was on to something when he wrote "You think that people would have had enough of silly love songs…"

I hear people say that they 'love' the new *Black Eyed Peas* album or advertisers say you'll 'love' the new chicken sandwich at Wendy's. Individuals may have a penchant for these things, but I doubt someone would want to make some cookies for an R &B album or willingly endanger their wellbeing for a chicken sandwich. Most folks would do those things for a loved one, but not for minor material objects.

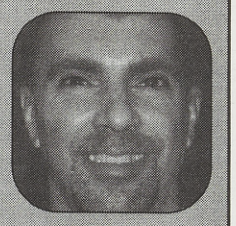
Love has become such a common everyday adjective; I fear the word has gone astray of its true meaning. I feel when the word 'love' is used in such a commercial manner it loses its true essence. Love should be an ardent word; because of its attachment to such a fervent set of emotions. I think the word 'love' should only be used to describe people and their actions and not for material things. I think it's grammatically lazy and intellectually dishonest to use it any other way.

So if you truly *love* someone, don't wait until the crisp, bright days of next February to show your lover/hus-bear/wife-partner that they are special to you. Go out, right now, and buy a box of chocolate for them—*and remember get the good stuff!* Make that 'happy ending' happen tonight! ▼

SPEAK OUT

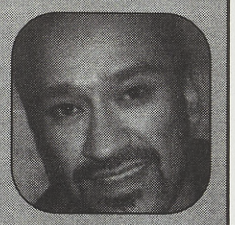
by ed kelly/mgw staff

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ONGOING ANTI-GAY ACTIVITIES IN THE FOOTHILLS?



chris, manager

all hate crimes should be a felony. they should be punished to the full extent of california law.

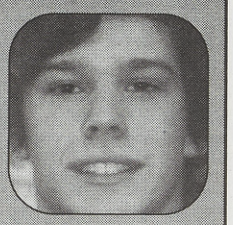


fred, realtor

for such a large and diverse region people jump on the hate bandwagon so quickly. it shows a lack of education.

diana, sales manager

that area is an upperclass version of the rio linda mentality. they all need to relax and live and let live.



steven, student

i think these crimes are fueled by ignorance and willingness to push a person's religious beliefs onto others.

raymon, student

hate breeds hate. i think that racist groups should rally for things that actually matter.

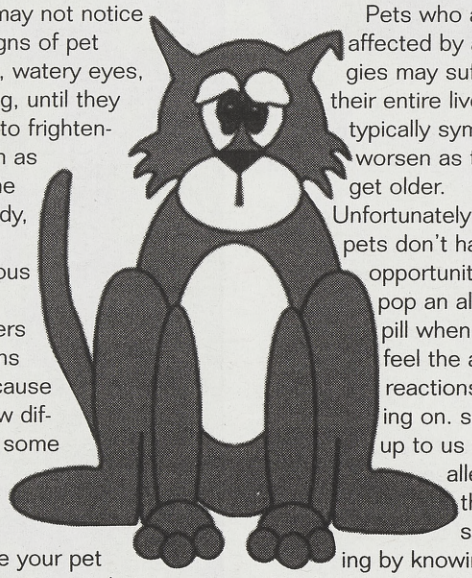
do you have a question for speak out? email it to us at editor@mgwnews.com

Pet allergies are a concern for valley pet owners

by matthew burlingame/mgw editor

Spring is once again upon us, and with many of us making sure our pets are kept out of the heat, are free of fleas and are as far away from virus-carrying mosquitos as possible, we sometimes forget that like us, our pets have allergies, too.

Sometimes we may not notice the more subtle signs of pet allergies, coughing, watery eyes, occasional sneezing, until they have blossomed into frightening symptoms such as paws chewed to the point of being bloody, or infected sores caused by continuous scratching.



Many animal lovers don't know the signs of pet allergies because dogs and cats show different reactions to some of the same things we're allergic to. Grass pollen, for example, may make your pet sneeze and their eyes water, but did you know that same pollen, could make their feet itch? Itchy feet and red and welting underside is a classic symptom of an inhalant allergy to pollen spores.

Depending on the type of allergy, your pet may exhibit different symptoms, but the most common reaction is that of a constant scratching, many times so intense that it leads to raised infected welts, open sores, and a loss of hair.

Pets who are affected by allergies may suffer their entire lives and typically symptoms worsen as they get older. Unfortunately our pets don't have the opportunity to pop an allergy pill when they feel the allergic reactions coming on. so it's up to us to help alleviate that suffering by knowing the signs of allergies and finding the right type of product relief for them.

Common Allergies In Pets

Atopy: an inhalant allergy, is the most common form of allergy in dogs and cats. Symptoms of atopy appear when tree pollen is high in the spring and then with grass pollen in the summer months. Your pet may then become hypersensitized to inside airborne allergens such as dust, molds, and smoke. Signs include: Chewing at the feet, Constant licking of the flank and groin area, Rubbing of the face, Inflamed ears or recurrent ear infections, Recurrent hot spots in dogs and pinpoint facial scabbing in cats, Asthma-like wheezing and respiratory problems (more likely in cats)

Contact Dermatitis: Less common allergies include contact dermatitis and flea allergy dermatitis. These allergies may cause: Red itchy bumps or blisters on sparsely-haired areas of the skin, Intense scratching, Hair loss (in chronic conditions)

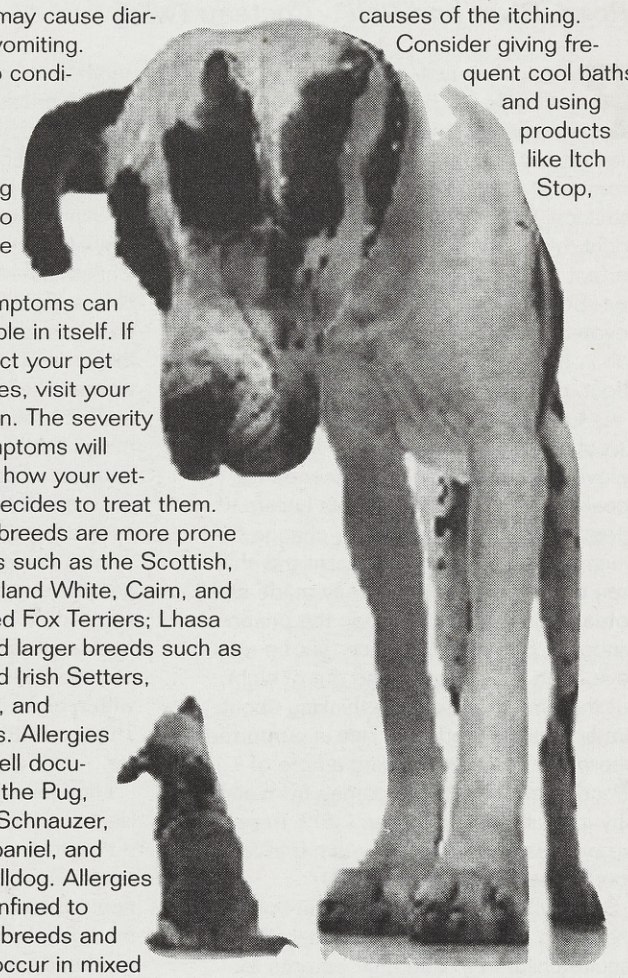
Food Allergies account for less than 10% of all allergies in dogs and cats. Food allergies often show up concurrently with atopy. Symptoms include: Itching, Ear problems, often yeast-related, Skin infections that respond to antibiotics, but then recur as soon as the antibiotic therapy ceases

Some dogs with true food allergies may have increased bowel movements and soft stool. Food intolerances, which are not true allergies, may cause diarrhea and vomiting. These two conditions are often confused.

Watching your pet go through the misery of allergy symptoms can be miserable in itself. If you suspect your pet has allergies, visit your veterinarian. The severity of the symptoms will determine how your veterinarian decides to treat them.

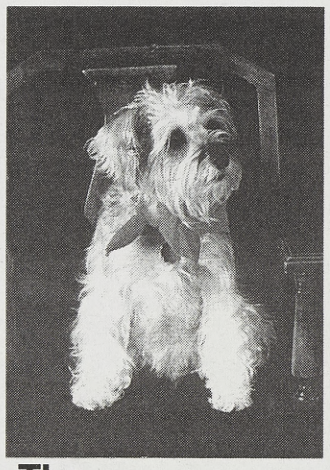
Certain breeds are more prone to allergies such as the Scottish, West Highland White, Cairn, and Wire Haired Fox Terriers; Lhasa Apsos; and larger breeds such as English and Irish Setters, Retrievers, and Dalmatians. Allergies are also well documented in the Pug, Miniature Schnauzer, Cocker Spaniel, and English Bulldog. Allergies are not confined to these few breeds and may also occur in mixed breeds and cats.

To temporarily stop your pet's itching problems, try shampooing, which relieves the itch temporarily as well as helping to remove scales, scabs, some parasites, bacteria, and other potential causes of the itching. Consider giving frequent cool baths and using products like Itch Stop, Oatmeal, or Tea Tree Oil Shampoo.



Often, feeding a premium diet combined with a fatty acid supplement, such as Vitacaps, Vitacoat, or FA (fatty acid) Granules help with good management. The Omega-3 fatty acids found in these products can help reduce inflammation and other symptoms of allergies. It is also believed that essential fatty acids (Omega-3 and Omega-6) actually decrease an animal's response to the allergen.

Remember, now is the time to take careful note of your dogs behaviors, particularly for those of you with outside pets. They rely on you for their comfort. ▼



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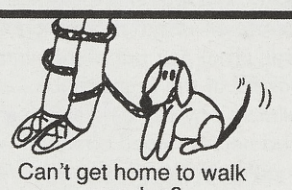

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Accepting the Challenge

by jm mccann/mgw staff

The Nor Cal AIDS Challenge is a fund raising cycling event for HIV/AIDS service agencies in Northern California. In this article I would like to you to get know a little about one of our organizing committee members. Her name is Mary O'Neal. Here in her own words is why she is helping on the Nor Cal AIDS Challenge:

"A year and a half ago I lost my older brother Bernard to AIDS. He had been diagnosed with HIV in the mid-nineties and I struggled with the fact that he would no longer be around. Bernard worked as a nurse in San Francisco and during my final two years of college he often called and assisted me financially. He was a wonderful person, a hilarious man and a very good friend. He came out to me later in life and was thrilled to know that I was already a veteran of pride events, fundraising for local AIDS charities and of course, I was an excellent fag hag! I felt like I was just getting to know him, the real Bernard. We spent our last thanksgiving together sharing stories and dancing to music in the garage with our family and friends. I can still see him, shaking his stuff right next to me.

Since 1996, I have been involved with Aids Walks in various cities and recently volunteered my efforts for an Aids cycling event. During that time, I was able to meet many new friends who helped me grapple with the loss of my brother by sharing their stories, the loss of their loved ones and the pain they continued to feel. During closing ceremonies I felt the presence of Bernard and my heart began to heal. I knew that he could not have been more proud of me. At that time I made a commitment to bring awareness to as many people as possible regarding this epidemic.

"A year and a half ago I lost my older brother Bernard to AIDS. He had been diagnosed with HIV in the mid-nineties and I struggled with the fact that he would no longer be around.

Then last year I was approached by a friend and bike enthusiast to think about working with the Nor Cal Aids Challenge team. The fact that the ride occurs in Sacramento was a huge bonus. None of the funds from other bike rides reached our community and I thought that was a shame, since so many of us have lost someone important to AIDS. I quickly committed myself to this organization and I am ecstatic about our first run as well as the future of the Nor Cal Aids Challenge.

It is my goal to be affiliated with the Nor Cal AIDS Challenge for as long as it runs. It's important to me and I know it's what my brother would want me to do. I hope to see many of you donating, volunteering, cheering and cycling our way to a cure. Visit our website at www.norcalaidschallenge.org and donate and register today!! ▼

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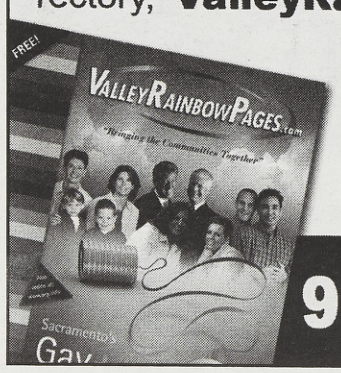

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HOUSEKEEPING BY DAYLE— Weekly, Bi-weekly, Monthly, Occasionally, Move-In, Move-Out. Housekeeper Extraordinaire, 14 years of experience. Phone: 375-1233

MASSAGE

HANDSOME YOUNG ATHLETE Offers strong, skilled, healing... sensuous full body Swedish/Deep tissue massage for MEN. Treat yourself! All ages welcome. Scott, CMT, Midtown, 444-3068

PETS

ADOPT-A-PET—Faux Paw Kennels, call Claire at 988-6225, or Mary 387-8811

WORKING PETS—Pets: Do you go to work with your mom or dad? Mom or Dad: MGW Newspaper would like to feature you and your pet. Send us a photo with caption or call 441-6397 and we will take the photo!

RENTALS/ROOMMATES

ROOMMATE/COMPANION—Seeking roommate/companion in Yuba City. Candidate should have a clean driving record (very important). Should be free to travel occasionally.
Room, board and a small salary.
Serious inquiries only please!
Call 966-0689 for more information.

MIDTOWN—studio apartment w/ garage and large yard in triplex at 24th St. & S St. Light Rail one block, convenient to freeways and downtown Sac. Walking distance to new safeway & Sac Natural Foods Coop. No pets. $655 per month+ deposit. 916.483.4915

STOCKTON HOUSE— $1400. Beautiful quiet 3br/2ba, $1400 feet, redone, quality taste, move-in ready 2/15, 510.482.9041, benoklnd@pacbell.net

CLASSIFIED ADS / BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTINGS

1 the data...
Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone-W
Phone-H
Signature

2 the money...
Business Directory listings.....$ 15
Personal Classified up to 30 words.....$ 10
Business/Services Classified up to 30 words.....$ 20
Additional Words @ 40¢ each.....$ ____
.....Subtotal $ ____
Multiply subtotal by# ____ of issues.....Total $ ____
(Make checks payable to MGW Newspaper. Do not send cash.)

3 the category...
- ❒ Announcements
- ❒ Employment
- ❒ For Rent
- ❒ For Sale
- ❒ Freebies
- ❒ Lesbians Seeking Lesbians
- ❒ Men Seeking Men
- ❒ Miscellaneous
- ❒ Roommates
- ❒ Services ($20 each)
- ❒ Wanted
- ❒ Other ____

4 business directory
Category
Name
Address
Phone

5 please print ad here 10 word minimum.
Free Headline (2-3 words):
Expiration date

Policies
• Include full name, address & daytime phone number on coupon. MGW will not accept your ad without phone numbers for verification. This information will be kept strictly confidential. No phone orders. No Cash Refunds. $25 will be charged for bounced checks. $10 service charge assessed on refunds for cancelled ads.• All ads must be prepaid. No ads containing explicit sexual references or crude language will be accepted. We reserve the right to abbreviate, edit, categorize, or refuse any ad. Do not write your ad in all capitol letters. • Business Directory Listings are $15 per issue. No discounts will apply. Listing may include only: business name, address and phone number.

Deadlines
• 1st Issue of the month: 7 calendar days before
• 15th Issue of the month: 7 calendar days before.

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Expiration date

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info@mgwnews.com

March 16. 2005

Artist's Talk with Michelle Thew Exploding Head Gallery 924 12th Street, Sacramento 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm Contact Linda or Jodi at 916-442-8424 www.exploding-headgallery.com

"The Syringa Tree" Sacramento Theatre Company 1419 H Street, Sacramento Runs through April 10, 2005 For more information call 916-443-6722 www.sacthe-atre.org

March 17. 2005

Third Thursday Jazz; Spencer Sherrod Crocker Art Museum 216 O Street, Sacramento 5:30 pm, admission is $10.00 nonmembers Call 916-264-5423 www.crockerartmuseum.org

March 18. 2005

"Just Us Girls" Lambda Players New Hit Comedy Box office opens at 7:00 pm, show starts at 8:00 pm 2427 17th Street, park-ing at the Washington Mutual Bank Tickets are $15.00, seniors and students $13.00 For reserva-tions call 444-8229 www.lambdaplayers.com

Davis Wine Company Tasting Davis Food Co-op Benefiting the Yolo Mutual Housing Association 620 G Street, Davis From 6-8 pm; Cost is $1.00 per taste Email Julie Cross at cross@daviscoop.com 530-758-2667

March 19. 2005

Understanding California's Domestic Partnership Law By Sacramento Lawyers For the Equality of Gays and Lesbians 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Pioneer Congregational Church 2700 L Street RSVP to jburch@downeybrand.com

Just For Families: Art Break – Play with Clay Crocker Art Museum 216 O Street, Sacramento 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Fee $25 members, $35 non-members Call 916-264-5423 www.crockerartmuseum.org

"Just Us Girls" Lambda Players New Hit Comedy Box office opens at 7:00 pm, show starts at 8:00 pm 2427 17th Street, park-ing at the Washington Mutual Bank Tickets are $15.00, seniors and students $13.00 For reserva-tions call 444-8229 www.lambdaplayers.com

March 20. 2005

Strip-O-Rama & BBQ Sponsored by CGNIE, Inc A fundraiser for HIV/AIDS Services in Northern California BBQ starts at 4:00 pm, STRIP review starts at 9:00 pm $5.00 Cover + $5.00 per plate for BBQ The Depot, 20th & K Streets

March 24. 2005

Just For Teens: Spring Sock Hop Dance Crocker Art Museum 216 O Street, Sacramento 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Age 15 and older free to members; $3 or $5 per couple nonmembers Call 916-264-5423 www.crockerartmuse-um.org

"The Firebird" Sacramento Ballet 1301 L Street, Sacramento Runs through March 27, 2005 For more information call 916-264-5181 www.sacballet.org

March 31. 2005

The Universe Within: The Human Body Revealed An educational exhibit of actual human bodies to run through September 4, 2005 Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California Street Advance tickets available by calling 415-292-9191 www.nobhilltickets.com

Drawing in the Ballroom: Live Model Crocker Art Museum 216 O Street, Sacramento 6-8:30 pm, Fee: $4 members; $6 students, $10 nonmembers includes admissionn Call 916-264-5423 www.crockerartmuse-um.org

April 1. 2005

"The Shooting Stage" runs through May 8, 2005 The New Conservatory Theatre Center's West Coast Premiere 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco Tickets available through the NCTC Box Office at 415-861-8972 Price ranges from $20.00 to $40.00 www.nctcsf.org

April 2. 2005

Coffee Out at the Weatherstone GSAC, Greater Sacramento Area Couples 812 21st Street, Sacramento, 7:00 pm www.sacramentosamesexcou-ples.com Exploring African Art and Identity Exibit Crocker Art Museum 216 O Street, Sacramento Museum hours are 10 am to 5 pm Tues-Sun, Thurs until 9 pm Call 916-264-5423 www.crockerartmuseum.org

April 3. 2005

"The Blue Dress" runs through April 17, 2005 The New Conservatory Theatre Center 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco Tickets available through the NCTC Box Office at 415-861-8972 Price $15.00

LLACE Fundraiser "Just Us Girls", Reception & Book Sale. Box office opens at 1:00 pm, show starts at 2:00 pm 2427 17th Street, Tickets are $15.00, seniors and students $13.00 For reservations call 444-8229 www.lambdaplayers.com

▼ ▼ ▼

AMY: CONTROL QUEEN
JEN: DRAMA QUEEN
JO: ELLEN QUEEN
JUST US GIRLS
BY T. SWANNER
DIRECTED BY M. BURLINGAME
PAT: SPORTS QUEEN
DOT: BEAUTY QUEEN
IDA: ROMANCE QUEEN
SYDA: DRAG QUEEN
NAN: ATTITUDE QUEEN
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Lambda Players' Theatre
2427 17th Street (Just off Broadway), Sacramento
tickets $15, $13 groups of 8 or more
$13 students with ID, seniors 65+, SARTA, LoST
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reservations with credit card only
www.lambdaplayers.com
thurs., fri., sat. @ 8pm; sun. @ 2pm
fridays: feb. 11, 18, 25, mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, apr. 1
saturdays: feb. 12, 19, 26, mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, apr. 2
thursdays: feb. 10, 24; sundays: feb. 20, mar. 27
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APRIL 16 @
UPTOWN STUDIOS
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8:30 SHOW
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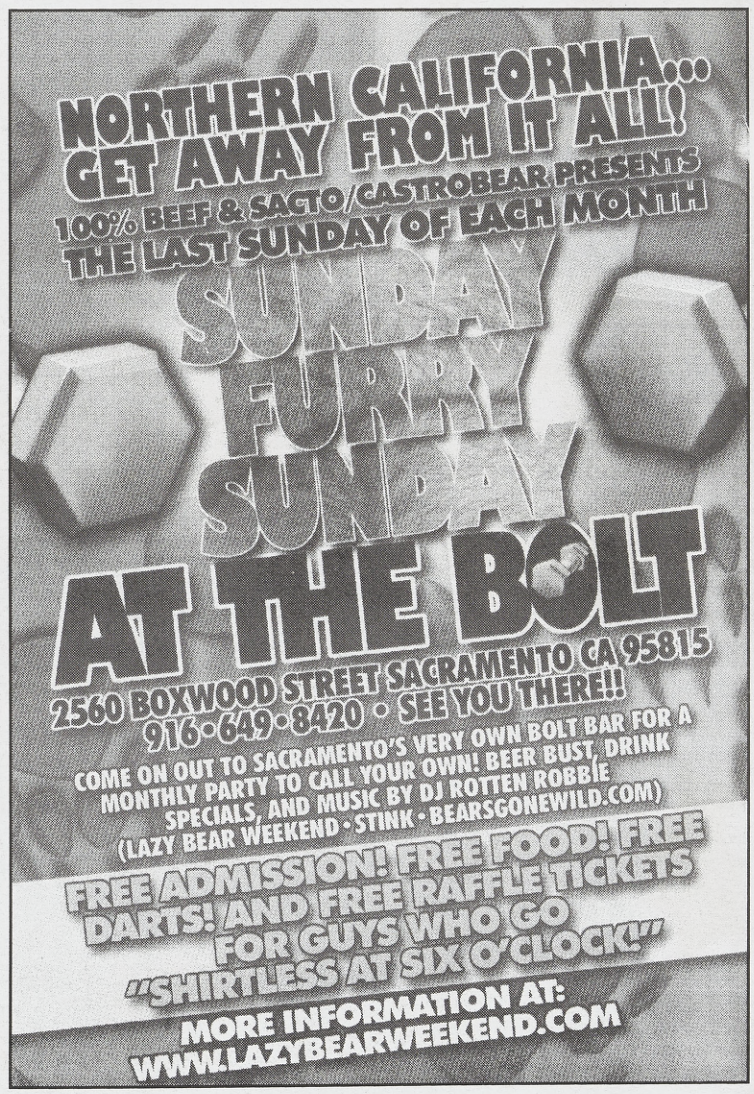
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PRESENT

Lambda AWARDS 2005

Honor Your Community.

The Lambda Community Fund will be honoring the "Best of the Best"; those wonderful people, both inside and outside in the LGBT community, who have distinguished themselves in either their service to our community or their efforts to end discrimination towards us

MON, MAR 21, 2005 • 6PM - 10PM

DOUBLETREE HOTEL •GRAND BALLROOM

• 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA

MCs:

Paul Curtis and Darla Givens of News 10

TICKETS:

$75 a ticket, $800 for a sponsor table of 10

Please send check or money order payable to: Lambda Community Fund • 1927 L St Sacto, CA 95814 or purcashe online at www.lambdasac.org/awards

PROGRAM AND ADVERTISING:

• Cassandra Davis • Cassandra@vrp.info • (916) 444-3389 • www.vrp.info

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

• jason@lambdasac.org • 916-442-085 ext 103 • www.lambdasac.org/awards

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